

Mrs. Slaughoup  
[mslaughoup@kcasdk12.org](mailto:mslaughoup@kcasdk12.org)

### **Course Description**

This course is designed to make you a better reader, writer, and thinker. You will be expected to work hard and put forth effort both inside and outside of the classroom. The coursework will focus upon the Pennsylvania Common Core Standards. The work will prepare you for the Literature Keystone Exam, but will more importantly elevate your current skill level. We will read several collections of short stories, poems, plays, and non-fiction articles. We will also read a few classroom novels. In addition to reading, we will write regularly and complete research assignments throughout the year. To round out our year, we will also study and enhance our vocabulary in hopes of improving our reading comprehension.

### **Major Goals of the Year**

- Students will read and analyze not only works of literature, but also informational texts, with an emphasis on comprehension, vocabulary, and making connections.
- Students will write for different purposes.
- Students will demonstrate a grade-appropriate command of the conventions of English grammar, usage, capitalization, and spelling.
- Students will acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words as well as studying unknown or multiple-meaning words.
- Students will participate in classroom discussions; students will be expected to contribute meaningfully and respond to others as well.

### **Materials Needed for the Year**

- *Elements of Literature, Fourth Course* textbook (Holt)
- A regular vocabulary series – *Vocabulary Power Plus for College and Career Readiness*
- Various novels
- A three-ring binder, section dividers, and a writing utensil -- which you must obtain and bring each day.

### **Work Policy**

Students are expected to participate in and complete all assigned class work. We will read a majority of our novels and short stories during class time as much as possible. Outside readings will be kept to a minimum to enable you to study for our regular vocabulary series and the literary elements we will study in connection with each unit. There may be written homework assigned in addition to vocabulary study and reading. Homework must be completed and will be collected at the beginning of class the day it is due. Late work will be docked 10% each day it is late. This policy includes major papers as well.

### **Absentee Policy**

If you are absent from school, you should first check on-line for the work you missed. If you still need answers, check the “What Did I Miss?” bulletin board in the classroom for work. If you are still not sure what work you missed, see me. This will be your responsibility; I will not have time to see you. You have one day for every day you are absent to make up the work. If you are ill for an extended amount of time, I will work with you personally on setting due dates.

### **Grading**

There will be many opportunities for grades. We will read each week and have quizzes and evaluations on that reading (as well as unit tests); we will have a regular vocabulary series we study with tests, and major papers.

### **Keystone Exam**

All sophomores will take the Literature Keystone exam in the spring. Proficiency on the exam is a pre-requisite for you to schedule the English class of your choice your junior year (General English, CP, or AP). If you do not pass the Literature Keystone, the remedial Keystone English course will be scheduled for you.

### **Tyler**

Grades will be current on Tyler. Weekly assignments will be posted on-line. It is your responsibility to be aware of the work and also of your grades. See me if you have questions. Feel free to contact me via e-mail as well.

## **Rules**

All school rules as found in our agenda apply in Room 311. You will be expected to use your agenda to use the restroom.

A few other rules worth mentioning:

1. You will be expected to be prepared each day with your binder, a writing utensil, completed homework, and your text/novel.
2. Be in your seat ready to work by the bell.
3. Respect the room and others.