



# ENGLISH I

Ms. Ward  
Rm. C322

## Course Welcome

Welcome to English I at Hazelwood East High School! My name is Ms. Ward. I am a graduate student in my last semester at UMSL. I have a Bachelor's degree in English and a Master of Fine Arts in Writing. I will graduate in December 2023, earning a Master of Education with Secondary Teaching Certification.

**Teaching Philosophy:** I value educating students as whole persons who may come to the classroom with negative past experiences, present hardships, and future expectations. My goals are to make lessons applicable to students' experiences, to teach students the value of self-critique and self-expression through writing, and to create a classroom unified under the banner of diversity, respect, and collective growth.

Please take your time to familiarize yourself with the course procedures and expectations.  
I look forward to getting to know both students and their families this school year.

--Ms. Ward

## Instructor Information:

**Ms. Ward**

[tward@hazelwoodschoools.org](mailto:tward@hazelwoodschoools.org) (preferred method of communication)

Classroom voicemail: ext 8335 (No calls will be taken during class time, please leave a message.)  
Rm C322

	<i><b>A DAY</b></i>	<i><b>B DAY</b></i>
7:15-8:45	1 <sup>ST</sup> PLAN	5 <sup>TH</sup> ELA I
8:50-10:20	2 <sup>ND</sup> ELA I	6 <sup>TH</sup> PLC
10:25-10:55	<b>LUNCH</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>
11:00-12:40	3 <sup>RD</sup> ELA I	7 <sup>TH</sup> ELA II
12:45-2:15	4 <sup>TH</sup> ELA I	8 <sup>TH</sup> ELA I

## Course Description:

The English Language Arts I course is designed to promote essential literacy, discourse and thinking skills required for students to acquire new information independently as lifelong learners. Throughout this course students will gain proficiency through multiple opportunities to expand their academic vocabulary and closely analyze literature texts, informational texts and multimedia texts presented in a variety of formats. Critical thinking and the ability to independently pursue and acquire information will be taught through text, speech, media and writing analysis. Students will work collaboratively with their teachers, peers and educational community to develop clear communication skills in both writing and verbal discourse. Students will produce multiple pieces of writing for a variety of purposes and will practice presenting and defending their ideas verbally. English Language Arts I is a required course for ninth grade students.

### Course Outline:

Each unit of study is 13-21 class sessions. Units center around an essential question that students will ask themselves as they read various fiction and nonfiction texts. Unit dates are subject to change.

#### **Unit 1: The Call to Adventure**

August 21, 2023-October 11, 2023

*What will you learn on your journey?*

#### **Unit 2: Exploring the Literary Worlds—Novel Studies**

October 12, 2023-January 12, 2024

*How does a chosen novel challenge societal norms and inspire personal transformation?*

#### **Unit 3: The Art of Disguise**

January 16, 2024-February 29, 2024

*How do we perform for different audiences?*

#### **Unit 4: Declaring Your Genius**

March 1, 2024-April 12, 2024

*How do you define intelligence?*

#### **Unit 5: The Dance of Romance**

April 13, 2024-End of Year

*When is love worth the fall?*

### Grading Structure:

70% Summative Assessments

- Student grades will be based primarily on the major projects, essays, and/or quizzes at the end of each unit.

30% Formative Classwork

- Daily assignments, discussion groups, group and independent practice in class, and homework

### Rules/Policies/Expectations:

- Classroom expectations:
  1. Arrive on Time and Ready to Learn
  2. Respect Others' Space and Time
  3. Keep Your Voice at a Learning Level
  4. Keep All Conversations School Appropriate
  5. No Passes During the First or Last 30 minutes

- Please refer to your [Student Handbook](#) regarding classroom expectations such as tardies, restroom use, and cell phones, as those policies will be followed.
- Technology Use:
  - Please bring your fully charged Chromebook to class every day, so that you are prepared to use it for classwork. We will use Google Classroom regularly.
- Assigned Seating Use:
  - Students must be seated at assigned desks for attendance, during instruction and whenever requested by the teacher.
  - Occasionally, students will be paired with peer partners at different table groups for Literature Circles or other assignments.
- Daily practice of independent reading and writing is an essential part of this classroom. Students will be expected to participate fully and avoid creating distractions to the learning environment.

**Homework:**

- Will be assigned nightly
- All students are expected to complete assigned homework to the best of their ability and on time
- Every homework assignment will be evaluated and returned to students in a timely manner

**Behavior:** Your classroom conduct should adhere to the policies outlined in the [Student Handbook](#) and attached Student Behavior Guide, as well as relevant 21st Century Skills for each unit. I contact home with news of student progress multiple times throughout each quarter.

**Attendance:** If an absence is excused by me, it is then the student's responsibility to obtain classwork they missed by checking Google Classroom and seeking additional help for assignment comprehension and completion (if needed).