**Mrs. Stephanie Beckner**

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**Syllabus for Pre-AP English/Language Arts – Level I**

**Course Overview**

The goal of Pre-AP English/Language Arts – Level I is to help students develop the literacy skills, study habits, and critical strategies that are necessary for students to be successful in any rigorous, academic courses. Throughout the course, students will read fiction and nonfiction texts. As we read these texts, we will emphasize critical analysis of each piece. We will also practice composition strategies, working to build an understanding of grammar and developing a strong academic vocabulary. Throughout the year, we will utilize numerous academic strategies that rely on collaboration, critical thinking, and problem solving. The ultimate goal of this course is to prepare students for Advanced Placement courses in high school.

 **Major Course Objectives**

* Students will read and analyze works of literature from a variety of genres
* Students will read 4 novels in class and 2 outside of class
* Students will analyze the use of literary elements associated with each genre
* Students will analyze the use of literary devices
* Students will utilize a variety of writing styles by using a writing process consisting of prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing
* Students will complete well-developed compositions, understanding the thesis statement and its function in multi-paragraph writing
* Students will receive basic grammar and usage skills as they appear in written work
* Students will develop vocabulary through reading, Word of the Day units, and on-line activities
* Students will become proficient with available technology

**Textbook, Instructional Materials, Resources**

SpringBoard English Language Arts, Grade 7

Ancillary Sources: A broad range of ancillary sources designed to supplement the text book will be provided as in-class handouts or digitally through ebackpack.

Writing Utensils

iPad

Internet

Notebook (can be digital)

**Grading**

Grades will be determined as a straightforward percentage of earned points divided by possible points. For each marking period students will earn points based on their performance on assignments. At the end of each marking period, points will be totaled and divided by total possible points to determine the marking period grade.

**Technology**
Students will utilize their school-issued iPad. It is imperative that students come to class with charged iPads, which are already connected to the internet. EBackpack, an electronic assignment/assessment tool, will be used to assign and collect student work. Most compositions will be submitted through this app/website. Ebackpack will serve as the students writing folders. In addition, students will also need to use a wide variety of iPad applications to complete specific projects. These applications include, but are not limited to: Flipboard, iMovie, Power Point Quizlet, and Socrative.

**Student Expectations**

* Be Prompt
	+ Be at your seat and ready when the bell rings
* Be Prepared
	+ Come to class with the materials you will need.
* Be Polite
	+ Any activity that keeps others from learning is absolutely unacceptable
	+ When discussing texts in class, listen to and respect what your peers have to say, even if you disagree
	+ Strive to constantly show integrity, empathy, and compassion in all that you do
* Homework
	+ Homework needs to be submitted on the assigned due date
	+ Late work – ***may*** be accepted at the discretion of the teacher. However, there will be a 10% per day late penalty
* Absences
	+ In the event a student is absent from class, it is the student’s responsibility to find out what they missed and complete their makeup work
	+ Incomplete work will earn a zero.
* Conduct
	+ Students are expected to follow classroom rules, as well as adhere to the code of conduct stipulated in the student handbook
* Attitude
	+ Students should strive to maintain a positive attitude in class. The content and topics we cover will certainly be challenging at times, but students should put forth their best effort and ask questions when they need help.

**Acknowledgment:**

Please sign and return this sheet by Friday, September 2, 2016. A copy of this syllabus can be found on Weebly and Ebackpack.

I have read and understand the course description and student expectations for Mrs. Beckner’s Pre-AP Level I class.

Student’s Name: Date:

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Student’s Signature: Date:

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Parent’s Name: Date:

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Parent’s Signature: Date:

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