August 2013

Dear Parent and/or Guardian,

Hello! My name is Ms. Brooke Wilson, and I am pleased to inform you that I will be your child’s English IV teacher for the fall semester of the 2013-2014 school year. Your child will find that I am a rigorous, but fair teacher who has planned an exciting and productive school year.

My particular style of teaching is based on setting high academic expectations for EVERY student, showing respect for all students and expecting respect in return, and last, but certainly not least, parental involvement. It is my belief that when parents and teachers work together a student can accomplish anything.

It is my hope to talk with the parents and/or guardians of all those in my classes. Let me extend an invitation to contact me should you be concerned or curious about your child’s progress in my class. I will also make a consistent effort to keep you aware of your child’s progress in my class. Your child and their learning are both very important to me. If you would like to speak with me in person, please call or e-mail me to schedule a time to meet. Please do not feel that you need to wait for me to contact you should you wish to talk.

Phone Number: (980)343-6080 –Brooke Wilson, English IV, room 201

E-mail: brookes.wilson@cms.k12.nc.us

To help your child succeed in English IV there a few simple things you can do:

1. Progress Reports: Your child will be required to obtain a parent/guardian signature on each progress report they receive. I will pass out progress reports at the end of every unit; there will be three units during the course. Please contact me if you are concerned or have questions relating to your child’s Progress Report.
2. Monitor College Preparation and Graduation Project: As a senior, your student is responsible for the remaining portions of the Graduation Project this year (product, portfolio, and presentation). Some work for the Graduation Project will be done in class, but students will be required to work outside of class on regular basis in order to succeed on the Graduation Project.
3. Contact Me: Please let me know when you feel your student is in need of special help or you have concerns about their progress. It is my desire to do everything within my power to help your child meet their fullest potential.

If you have any questions, comments and/or concerns about the course, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to working with you and your child!

Respectfully,

Ms. Brooke Wilson

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\*\*On the first day of classes your child will be given a student/parent contract and information sheet. Please read over the syllabus with your child, fill out the sheet, and have your child return it to me during the first week of school

**English IV – British Literature**

**Syllabus**

**A. Course Overview**

This course will move quickly and cover a wide range of British Literature; you will defend their positions on a myriad of fiction and nonfiction texts through persuasive and literary analysis essays as well as in presentations, debate, and Socratic Seminars.

If you are diligent and focused in yourwork, you will be prepared for success both in English IV and in your life after high school graduation. You will earn your academic success in this classroom, and together we will work toward our big goal:

***Through our commitment to education, we will challenge ourselves and change our community.***

**B. Texts (Subject to Change)**

* North Carolina Graduation Project Student Handbook; available electronically at [www.cms.k12.nc.us/programs/gradproj](http://www.cms.k12.nc.us/programs/gradproj)
* Holt McDougal, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt: *Literature British Literature Grade 12*.
* Various novels will be assigned.

**C, Required Course Materials**

* 7-1/2" x 9-3/4" composition book (2)
* Glue sticks
* scissors
* College rule notebook paper
* Highlighters
* Pens (black or blue ink)
* #2 pencils
* USB flash drive to save work from computer lab, laptops, and media center

**D. Grades**

Your grade is a reflection of *your* effort and mastery of class material. You *earn* a grade, it is not “given” to you. Points are earned on each assignment.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Tests and Quizzes | 70% |
| Class work/homework | 30% |

**\*\*25% of your final grade will be the Graduation Project final overall score\*\***

CMS Grading Scale: A:(100-93) B: (92-85) C: (84-78) D: (77-70) F: (69-0).

1. Graduation Project

You are responsible for the remaining parts of the Graduation Project this year. You are expected to complete the portfolio, product, and speech. These are required and must be done to complete your Graduation Project. Please adhere to all due dates. There will not be any extensions.

2) Daily Work, Essays, Projects, and Exams

As essays, projects, and exams make up 70% of your grades, it is essential that these assignments are given your full attention and effort. In addition, you are expected to complete all daily work assignments and actively participate in classroom activities and discussions. Failure to do so can have an adverse affect on your grade. **REMEMBER**, an honors course has elevated requirements and expectations.

**E. Late Work and Make-Up Work**

1. Excused Absences

Good attendance is essential for success in this class. Being late or missing class can make it difficult to succeed. Like college courses**, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed** during your absence.

Students who are absent legitimately the day a test is given or assignment/project is due must make up the test/turn in the assignment on the day that they return to class. An equivalent, alternate test will be given in the case of make-up tests. If a student is absent for an extended period (e.g., more than a few days), an appointment for making-up the test must be made the day the student returns to class. The student should also plan to meet with me during their break to make a mutually agreeable plan for completing all missed work. Complete loss of credit for an exam/assignment will result if it is not completed in five school days.

You can refer to another student’s Day Binder to find out what you have missed during class. All guided notes and class worksheets can be found in the Make-Up Work filing cabinet located at the back of the classroom.

1. Unexcused Absences/Coming to Class Unprepared

All assignments are due at the very beginning of class on the day that it is due. Other than major portfolio assignments, **NO LATE WORK WILL BE ACCEPTED after the 2 day grace period from the day assignment is given. HOWEVER, YOU MUST REMEMBER,** Five points will be taken off for each day that **ANY** assignment is late.

**F. Attendance/Tardy Policy**

You are allowed ten absences for the semester (I would not miss one). If you have eleven or more absences and have not done recovery, then I am obligated by law to fail you.

The West Mecklenburg High School tardy policy will be enforced. You must have a pass from the office to enter class late. A parent or guardian will be contacted for repeated tardiness.

**G. Classroom Climate and Expectations**

1. Be Prompt
2. Be Prepared
3. Be Polite
4. Be Productive
5. Be Positive

***Things that are debatable***: ideas, opinions, literature

***Things that are NOT debatable:*** RESPECT, dress code, cheating, cell phones\*, mp3 players/iPods\*,

**H. Teacher Availability/Student Responsibility**

I will work hard to help you learn, and I expect you to take charge of your own learning and understanding. I will always make time outside of class to help you; I am available for after school tutoring on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 to 4:00. Students are encouraged to seek help if they are having difficulty with understanding a concept, an assignment, want me to review a draft or if you have a question about something (and there are no “dumb” questions—if it’s bothering you, it’s important!). Finally, if the question is about how to do an assignment, come and see me for help BEFORE the assignment is due.

**STUDENT AND PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTRACT**

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read the syllabus and I understand what is expected of my child in this class.

**Parent/Guardian Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read the syllabus and I do understand what is expected of me in this class.

**Student Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/ Guardian Information Sheet**

*Please provide the most up-to-date and accurate information available. It is critical that I be able to get in touch with you. Please note, I frequently use email and a work and/or personal email address is much appreciated*.

**Parent/ Guardian Name (please print legibly):** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/ Guardian of (please print legibly):** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| --- | --- |
| Home Phone # | Cell Phone # |
| Work Phone # | Email Address |

Please share one or two things I should know about your child.

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