

Mrs. Hocking  
mhocking@kenton.k12.ny.us  
English 9  
Room 403

**Course Overview:**

The main skills and strategies that will be taught and utilized in the classroom will hopefully inspire students to achieve personal excellence, pursue high standards, and become self-directed learners. Students will read, write, listen, and speak for information and understanding, for literary response and expression, for critical analysis and evaluation and for social interaction.

**Reading List:**

Besides a variety of short stories, read-alouds, non-fiction selections, and poems, we may also be reading the following major literary works this year:

*Romeo and Juliet*.....William Shakespeare  
*Of Mice and Men*.....John Steinbeck  
*Speak*.....Laurie Halse Anderson  
*Monster*.....Walter Dean Meyers

**Materials:**

Blue/Black ink Pens/Pencils  
1" Binder with Five Dividers  
Paper

**Attendance/Tardiness:**

It is your responsibility to make up any missed assignments due to valid absences. The due date will be extended one day for every day of the absence. Tests/Quizzes need to be made up after school or during a free period.

You cannot enter the classroom tardy without a pass. Multiple offenses will result in detention. If you fail to show for detention, a call will be made home and a referral will be made to administration.

If you are absent for an extended amount of time, please contact the school (874-8401) and assignments will be compiled for you to send home.

**Grade Policy:**

Your grades are determined by a series of quality points. Grades will be calculated using:  
Participation/Attendance  
Classwork  
Homework  
Projects  
Tests/Quizzes

## Expectations

- Be Responsible
- Be Prepared
- Be Respectful
- Be Genuine
- Be Productive
- Be Prompt

## Paper Heading:

Please put the appropriate heading on all assignments.

First and Last Name

English 9 Period \_\_\_\_

Date

Assignment Title

## Unpardonable errors

- Capitalize proper nouns and proper pronoun (I)
- The first word in each sentence starts with an upper case, and all sentences end with appropriate punctuation. (! ?)
- Never start a sentence with an actual number.  
le: 2 characters in the novel had to overcome difficulties.
- Never use numbers or letters in formal writing to replace words that sound the same.  
le: I am going 2 the store. Please empty the dishwasher B-4 you go to the store.
- Gonna, Wanna, Hafta, Kinda are not appropriate words for formal writing.  
Please use: going to, want to, have to, kind of  
Remember it's: would **have**, could **have**, should **have**....NOT "of"
- Underline titles of novels and put "poems", "songs", and "short stories" in quotation marks.

## Review: Come on, you guys know this stuff!!

**Its** is a possessive pronoun.

The dog wagged **its** tail.

**It's** is a contraction that means it is.

Do you think **it's** going to be sunny tomorrow?

The apostrophe (') is used to replace a missing letter (When you're at the store, buy some milk.)  
or the apostrophe is used to show possession (The girl's dog ran across the road.)

**It is not used to show multiples of something.**      The Hocking's love to travel. = wrong  
The Hockings love to travel = correct

**Your** is a possessive pronoun.

Please put **your** book on the desk.

**You're** is a contraction that means you are.

Don't text if **you're** driving.

**Our** is a plural possessive pronoun.  
It is **our** turn to help out with the clean-up.

**Are** is a verb.  
We **are** going to have ice cream after soccer practice.

**Then** is often used to situate time.  
You wake up in the morning and **then** you have breakfast.

**Than** is a conjunction mainly used in making comparisons.  
My breakfast was better **than** your breakfast.

**There** is used to refer to a place.  
Put your coat over **there** for now.  
Pete said **there** will be plenty of time for games later.

**Their** is used to indicate possession.  
The Smiths brought home **their** new puppy today.  
**Their** vacation photos were breath taking.

**They're** is used as a contraction to mean they are.  
Joel and Ben say **they're** trying out for the hockey team.  
**They're** all very tired after the sleep-over.

**But** is a conjunction and not a sentence starter. Please don't start sentences with "but".  
Patty invited Jim to the party, **but** he didn't want to go. = correct  
Patty thought it would be fun to invite Jim to the party. **But** Jim didn't want to go. = incorrect  
Try using transitional words such as; however, on the other hand.

## Comma Rules

### Items in a series

In our garden we planted, peas, beans, corn, and peppers. (The Oxford comma before the conjunction "and" is optional, but preferred.)

**Compound sentence:** Combining two independent clauses with a conjunction.

It's just two simple sentences being combined with a conjunction. (and, or, nor, so, but, yet)

Sara likes to play guitar, **and** she is a great athlete. Kevin likes dark chocolate, **but** he doesn't like black licorice.

**Complex sentence:** Combining one independent clause with a dependent clause when the sentence begins with the dependent clause or a subordinate conjunction such as: when, because, although, even though, since, unless, before, whenever, until, etc.

When you cross the street, make sure you look both ways.  
If you want to go to the mall, I'll ask if I can go with you.  
Because it was raining this morning, my dog wouldn't go outside.

## Student/Parent Contact Information

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
please print

Parent (s)Name \_\_\_\_\_  
please print

### **Parent Contact:**

Please provide the best means of communication.

Phone: Home or Work (circle) \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and understand all the information provided in regards to English 10.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(student signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(parent signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

*"What we do today, right now, will have an accumulated effect on all our tomorrows."*

*-Alexandra Stoddard*