Course Description: 9th Grade ELA is designed to prepare students for success as readers, writers, speakers and listeners. The short term goal being successful preparation for the NYS Regents exam in 11th grade, with longer term goals focusing on students ability to be college and/or career ready upon completion of high school. Coursework will align with the New York State Common Core ELA Standards.

Major Works - each comes with supplementary non-fiction and literary pieces: During each project and unit of study, there will be a variety of work done in; vocabulary, reading comprehension, critical thinking, and writing activities to accompany each text and topic. The students will be responsible for reading all novels and plays assigned for class discussions. Emphasis is placed on developing writing skills and the writing process. All work is in alignment with New York State Common Core Standards.

- Of Mice and Men
- Mythology
- The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet
- To Kill a Mockingbird
- The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man in the Moon Marigolds
- Speak

Grades: Grades will be determined based on your ongoing work in and out of class.
Assignments will be weighed and graded based on a point system.

- Class Participation and Effort Grades: 10-25 points
- Group Work, Quizzes and General Assignments: 50-100 points
- Final Drafts of Papers, Major Tests & Projects: 200-400 points

Late Work: Homework, class work and projects completed outside of class are due as assigned. I will accept work one (1) day late, but grades will be reduced by ten percent (10%) of the points the assignment is worth, at two (2) days late, grades will be reduced by twenty-five percent (25%) of the points. More than two days and your work is a ZERO. In the case of extended absences or extenuating circumstances, please be sure to check with me to make suitable arrangements in accordance with school policy.

Weekly Reading & Vocab Homework

Technology: I’m an advocate for using technology effectively. Emphasis on the word effectively. That means there will also be times when technology will NOT be used. Every day, cell phones will be checked into the holder and charging station area when you enter the room. If it’s an appropriate day for cell phone use, I’ll let you know as you enter. In that case, phones will remain screen side down on the desk in front of you until you’re instructed/allowed to use...
them. We will use the school’s computers and your school google accounts to use all of Google Docs, Slides, Sites, etc... for the vast majority of our classwork.

**Google Classroom:** Assignments, updates, and activities will be housed or linked through this site. Any assignments requiring computer use will be allowed ample time for you to work on them in school.

**Remind Account:** I will send out reminders about major deadlines and tests using Remind. You can use Remind to ask me specific questions about assignments. Remind will only notify me of messages between 7:30am and 9:00pm. If you send a message after 9pm, I won’t see it until after 7:30 the next morning. Please plan accordingly.

**Instagram:** There is a private Instagram account culvers_class you can follow. I will only accept follows from students who are identifiable. I will not follow anyone back. You’ll be able to find Wreck this Journal pics, grammar memes and literary quotes. It isn’t mandatory, just a suggestion of something fun to do.

**MMHS Academic Honesty Policy**

Academic dishonesty includes securing information about the content of an examination prior to the scheduled time of the examination; giving or receiving assistance during an examination; and presenting as one's own in reports, term papers, or other projects, any expressions, quotations, or creative work of others without giving due credit. Plagiarism and cheating are violations of the Student Code of Conduct. The maintenance of academic honesty is the responsibility of both instructors and students. Any written assignment submitted by a student must be of original authorship. Representation of another's work as his/her own shall constitute plagiarism. Any charge of plagiarism shall be substantiated either by a direct correlation between the original and the alleged plagiarized copy or “clear and convincing evidence.” Cheating shall be considered a violation and subject to the same penalties.