



Stillman Middle School

2977 W. Tandy Road
(956) 698-1000

8TH GRADE ENGLISH I HONORS ONLINE COURSE SYLLABUS 2021-2022

This syllabus provides important information about class policies and expectations. You are responsible for reading it, understanding it, and following it. Failure to follow the guidelines below may lead to a failing grade in this class. After reading this document, please use your school email to send me a message stating that you have both read and understood all of the information found within. There will be a quiz connected to the information, so be sure to read it carefully.







Teacher: Mrs. Claudia Borrego
Room: D212
Email: cborrego@bisd.us
Conference Time: 2:05 - 2:50 P.M. (Mondays and Wednesdays)






Conference and Email Policy:

Monday through Friday (8:00 AM – 4:00 PM), there will be a 24-hour response window for emails and post messages. It will usually be *MUCH* faster, but please understand that the window is up to 24 hours. If parents wish to schedule a meeting at some other time, they may contact me via email, Google Voice mail (956-507-0023), or by calling the school's office (956-698-1000).

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is meant to prepare students to successfully complete the English I EOC exam. Additionally, honors courses challenge and enrich motivated college-bound students to expand their education beyond the typical secondary program. Honors coursework develops advanced skills and provides the content background to prepare students for college-level work. This is an online English course – sometimes online with others (synchronously) and sometimes on their own (asynchronously) – designed to engage students in a variety of online activities and scheduled assignments that include but are not limited to reading information in a textbook or on the Internet; watching grammar, writing, or vocabulary video tutorials; and creating essays or short answer responses in Google Docs or Slides. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions using various platforms, such as Google Slides, Google Docs, Teams, Nearpod, or Flipgrid. Students will also be expected to participate in interactive online conversations (Teams/Google Meet) with other students in the class. Assignments and their due dates will be posted well in advance, so it is the student's responsibility to stay on schedule and prioritize his/her time. The following represents the areas of study:

-  Writing Modes/Genre: Expository,
-  Narrative Writing
-  Text Structures/Author's Purpose
-  The Writing Process
-  Vocabulary Development
-  Sentence Structure

-  Grammar: Parts of Speech
-  Spelling, Capitalization, and Punctuation
-  Revising and Editing/Proofreading Skills
-  Journal Writing
-  Research proces

REQUIRED and SUGGESTED MATERIALS:

You must have easy access to an electronic device (e.g. desktop, laptop, or smartphone) with Internet access (preferably Chrome) to take this course as well as other required technologies listed below.

Required:

- 📖 Textbook (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt - HMH)
- 📧 Access to BISD email (studentID@stu.bisd.us)
- 👤 Access to Microsoft Teams
[Desktop and Mobile Download for Teams](#)
- 📖 Access to Schoology ([Schoology Students](#))
- 📖 Access to Clever ([Clever Log In](#))
- 📖 Access to Apex via Clever
- 📖 Access to Flipgrid App ([Flipgrid How To Article](#))
- 📖 Access to Nearpod App ([Join Nearpod](#))
- 📖 Access to AR program ([AR Program](#))

Suggested:

- 📖 USB drive (For Periodic Backups)
- 📖 1 spiral or composition notebook (For Notes)
- 📖 Pens or pencils (For Notes)
- 📖 Academic Planner (To Help Track All Deadlines)
- 🖨️ Printer (To Print Helpful Handouts/Resources – for those students who prefer to view them on paper instead of online only)

Class App Codes:

PERIOD	Schoology Courses	REMIND APP	FLIPGRID
1 st / 2 nd	???????	@???????	Borrego????
3 rd	???????	@???????	borrego????
5 th	???????	@???????	borrego????
6 th	???????	@???????	borrego????
8 th	???????	@???????	borrego????

Required Textbooks and Novels:

1. **HMH Into Literature Texas: Grade 9** by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (Student Edition Consumable)
<https://>
2. **A Separate Peace** by John Knowles
https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B6_SRWVI4YE-UC1Y2Z2HMGINa28/view?resourcekey=0-U3Dg6aronHIHSywiQi5UyQ

Accelerated Reader Program and Goals: **(PENDING PRINCIPAL'S DIRECTIVE)**

1. Every student will participate in our Accelerated Reading Program. The focus of this program is to increase fluency, enhance comprehension, and foster a love for reading.
2. Students will be taking an AR Quiz every **_____ weeks** and receive two Daily Work Grades on the day of the quiz (1 Daily Work Grade for the AR Quiz on the novel they checked out and 1 Daily Work Grade for completing the Library Agenda).

Attendance:

Logging on and responding verbally or in writing during an online class meeting is your attendance in this class. Students are expected to check their Schoology course Updates page and/or school email a minimum of once a day. *Please keep in mind that failing to do so may cause a student to miss important and maybe even time-sensitive class information/assignments.* If a student is unable to attend a particular meeting, he/she will need to fill out and submit a Weekly Status Survey with that day's assignment no later than 11:59 PM the day he/she is absent in order to be considered present. If a student is unable to attend due to a technical difficulty, it is very important that he/she contact me immediately by emailing me – if he/she can, calling the school (956-698-1000) and leaving a message, or leaving me a voicemail on my Google Voice number (956-507-0023) so that I may be made aware of the issue and the school or I can try to find a way to resolve it.

Parental/Guardian Notifications:

As this class will be conducted completely online, it is important to ensure that parents/guardians are always able to monitor their child's progress. Therefore, parents/guardians are asked to provide a valid email address and/or phone number to ensure that lines of communication are kept open. A survey (Technology Survey for Families) will be sent to parents to the email provided to ensure that the address is valid and to assess the amount of technology and technical support available to the student at home. Late or missing assignments or tests will be clearly marked in Schoology grades, so parents will always be able to check on their child's academic progress in this class. If a parent needs help learning how to read Schoology grades, please contact me as soon as possible.

Make-Up & Late Work Policy:

Late work is defined as work that has been completed and turned in after a designated due date. Students are expected to turn in all assignments by the due date. Assignments not completed on time may not be allowed to be submitted in Schoology, so students may need to request permission from their teacher to turn in late work. If permission is granted, the new deadline will be at the discretion of the teacher. The **highest grade** a student may receive for late work turned in is a **70**. Please note that LATE WORK will NOT be accepted without a request from the student for an extension in the form of an email. The parent/guardian will then be notified of the request by phone or email and the extension given (if any) after said phone conference has taken place or a response email has been received. NO EXCEPTIONS. This will ensure that parents are aware of their child's academic progress. However, if answers on an assignment have already been reviewed in any of the online platforms (Schoology, Teams, etc.), the original assignment will not be accepted. Instead, students may have the opportunity to complete another assignment of equal or higher rigor on the same material.

Middle School Courses: Six Weeks Grades:

1. Major assessments are sixty percent (60%) of the grade. This must include a **minimum** of **three major assessments** per six weeks. Examples of major assessments include but are not limited to essays, tests, research papers, and projects. Projects and/or subjective assignments will contain a rubric with clearly defined criteria.
2. Minor assessments are forty percent (40%) of the grade. These must include a **minimum** of **five minor assessments** per six weeks. Examples of minor assessments include but are not limited to quizzes, daily work assignments, homework, and notebooks.

Academic Dishonesty/Cheating:

A student found to have engaged in academic dishonesty shall be subject to grade penalties on assignments or tests and disciplinary penalties in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct. (Refer to BISD Student/Parent Handbook pg.23.)

NETIQUETTE RULES:

- Be polite and use a respectful tone.
- Be respectful of other's time – don't be late.
- Dress appropriately – no pajamas and/or lying in bed.
- Be attentive during meetings – no scrolling through your phone or falling asleep during a meeting.
- Participate – ask questions and volunteer answers.
- Practice proper grammar and punctuation – be sure what you post in a chat is understandable by all.
- Don't abuse the chat box – avoid irrelevant questions and/or discussions.
- Think before you use sarcasm, humor, and/or post a joke on the chat box or some other site.
- Attempt to find your own answer – before asking what to do, check to see if the answer hasn't already been included in the instructions or mentioned in a previous post.
- Submit files **correctly** – read and follow the directions for submittals instead of doing it your own way.

Discipline Plan/Consequences:

1st Offense*: Warning-Redirect; Document on eSchool Plus

2nd Offense*: Teacher/Student Conference; Parent Notification; Document on eSchool Plus

3rd Offense*: Counselor Referral via email; Document on eSchool Plus

4th Offense*: Team/Parent Conference via Google Meet/Teams; Document on eSchool Plus

5th Offense: Office/Administrator Referral via email; Document on eSchool Plus

***Any SEVERE DISRUPTION requires immediate office/administrator referral.**

ONLINE LIBRARY RESOURCES:

Stillman Library Webpage: www.stillmanbisd.weebly.com/library

Stillman Library Direct Phone Number: (956) 698-1013

Librarian: Ms. D. P. Villarreal (dpvillarreal@bisd.us)

Asst. Librarian: Ms. D. Betancourt (dbbetancourt@bisd.us)

Find out if a book has an AR Quiz: ([AR Book Finder](#))

Search the Longhorn Digital Database (Use your student ID for both your username and password.): ([MackinVIA](#))

Find encyclopedia articles, multimedia, primary sources, games, and other learning resources: ([Britannica School-Primary Sources](#))

Find research databases, e-journals, magazine subscriptions, ebooks and discovery service: ([EBSCO](#))

Find a wealth of videos, interactives, printable resources, audio content, and maps and flags ([Power Videos](#))

Find newspaper articles from The Brownsville Herald: ([The Brownsville Herald](#))

Free Citation Generators: [Citefast](#) and [Citation Machine](#)

