



# Reynolds High School

## Language Arts 9 Accelerated – 2023-24

**Instructor Name:** Harth Huffman  
**Room Number:** 509

**School phone:** 503-667-3186 (ext. 1286)  
**Email Address:** [hhuffman@rsd7.net](mailto:hhuffman@rsd7.net)

*Email is the most effective way to get in touch with me.*

**Required Materials:** one spiral notebook, pen or pencil (daily), laptop

**LA9 Course Description:** 9<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts will focus on a wide variety of language arts content and skills, such as explanatory, literary analysis, and narrative essays; reading and analyzing literary and informational text; using evidence to support a point of view; and building literacy skills for success in high school and beyond. We will be reading essays, articles, poems, short stories, and novels including *La Linea* and *Of Mice and Men*. You will also have writing assignments based on your independent reading selections.

**Language Arts 9 Course Requirements:** Students will be required to complete class assignments, including essays and smaller writing assignments, plus required reading during class time and on their own.

### Course Theme and Major Content

For the entire year, students will explore and analyze the meaning, the ideals, and the reality of the American Dream.

First semester will review basic grammar skills and introduce expository writing skills. To learn and practice these skills, we will analyze character development in literature using short stories and the novel, *La Linea*. Then you will apply these skills to analyze a character in a novel you have chosen.

Second semester will expand expository writing skills and introduce higher level skills. To practice these skills we will analyze themes in literature using videos, short stories, and the classic American novel *Of Mice and Men*. The final project of the year will be a literary analysis of the novel *Parable of the Sower*.

This course is presented as a humanities course, which means it will incorporate all the elements of a Language Arts course, presented through the lens of our society and culture.

### Goals

First Semester:

- Use quotes as evidence to support a claim.
- Write organized, comprehensive explanatory paragraphs.
- Analyze the development of a character over the course of a literary text.
- Write a complete essay that explains the development of a character in a novel.

Second Semester

- Identify and analyze theme in a literary text
- Write an essay that thoroughly explains their analysis of theme in a literary text.
- Write a comprehensive essay that critiques the concept of the American Dream as related to a literary work.

## Language Arts 9 Grading Policy:

Grades will be based on each student's ability to demonstrate their proficiency of the skills taught during each semester (see Goals, above).

Formative: Class work (learning and practice)-----10%

Quizzes: -----20%

Mastery: Essays and other writing assignments -----70%

**Note** that Master assignments carry much higher weight than class work. It is impossible to pass the class if you don't pass the mastery assignments. The point of Mastery assignments is to identify the skill level and learning of each student. This is why it is most of the grade.

Assignments will be scored on a 4 point scale (similar to Grade Point Average):

Score	Percentage Equivalent	Description
5	98-100	Highly Advanced
4.5	93-97	Advanced
4	90-92	Advancing
3.5	85-89	Exceeds
3	80-84	Meets +
2.5	75-79	Meets
2	70-74	Minimally meets
1.5	60-69	Mostly does not meet
1	59 and below	Does not meet
0	50	Insufficient evidence (assignment incomplete or not submitted, or percentage quiz score below 55%) <b>Mastery assignments not submitted earn 0%</b>

**Late Work Policy** – Late assignments will be accepted until five days before the end of each semester. No points are deducted for late work. End of semester Mastery Assignments will not be accepted late.

**Retakes** – You may resubmit quizzes (two retakes) or mastery assignments after you have revised your work if time permits.

**Cell phone policy** – RHS policy officially prohibits cell phone use in class because cell phones are major distractions that may hurt students' well-being, their learning, and their grades. However, I view phone use in the classroom as a matter between students and parents. I will not play babysitter for cell phone use. If phone use is hurting a student's grade or learning, I will discuss it with the student and notify parents.

STUDENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_