# **Mr. G. Beck**

Mt. Sinai High School 9R

September 6

English 2016-17

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students:

Welcome to Mt. Sinai High School for your freshmen year. I trust you will be ready to learn, as I am ready to teach. This packet contains information you need regarding this class for the school year. If you have any concerns about the information in this packet, please contact me at gbeck@mtsinai.k12.ny.us.

Please return the completed and signed last page of this packet on: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Please have all materials in class by: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Required Materials:**

* 5 subject notebook or binder
* Folder
* Black or blue pen (for graded written assignments that are not typed)
* Pencil for any scantron quizzes/tests
* Highlighter
* Post it notes

**Texts Studied:**

* *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck
* *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry
* *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare
* *The Odyssey* by Homer
* Excerpts from *The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls
* Excerpts from *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros
* *Farenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury
* *Speak* by Laurie Halse Andersen

**Additional Texts:**

Selected short stories, non-fiction texts, and poetry will be studied in each unit

**Writing Practice and Development:**

This year, you will write both informally and formally for variety of purposes and audiences. Your *process* writing pieces (formal) and journal entries (informal) will explore the following styles of writing:

**o *Narrative***

**o *Expository***

**o *Persuasive***

**o *Informational***

**Additional Areas of Study:**

* Grammar, editing and language development
* Vocabulary enrichment and development
* Research development (using MLA format)

**Course Goals:**

* Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:
* identify, define, and use various literary elements and devices
* understand writing as a *process* (brainstorming, outlining, drafting, and revising)
* maintain a writer's portfolio (writing folder)
* respond thoughtfully to literature using evidence from the text
* work collaboratively with peers on a variety of activities and projects

**Classroom Rules**:

We must set some basic classroom ground rules. They are as follows:

1. Be prepared.
   1. You will attend class with a blue or black pen, your notebook and be at your desk by the time the bell rings. Your notebook should have five sections: literature, writing, vocabulary/grammar, do now, and homework/journal.
   2. Do not be late. This is a sign of disrespect to not only your teachers, but to your fellow classmates. Be assured that we will never be late, as that is respect that is due to you. If you find that you are late, enter the classroom without disruption, place your late pass on my desk, and quietly take your seat.
2. Respect the people, equipment and furnishings of the class.
3. Follow directions the FIRST TIME they are given. Directions are not given a second time.
4. Observe all classroom procedures and rules of Mt. Sinai High School
5. Understand that the teacher has the right to adjust these rules at any time.

Failure to comply with the class contract will result in the following consequences:

1. Verbal warning.
2. Student will have to stay after class for a conference with the teacher.
3. A telephone call will be placed to the student’s parent or guardian.
4. Detention. One day’s notice will be given.
5. Referral to the AP for further disciplinary action.

Other procedures:

1. You must raise your hand to speak, leave your seat, or garner the teacher’s attention.
2. Bathroom passes will be given in emergencies.
3. Unless otherwise directed, homework will be checked or collected immediately following the late bell, and a Do Now will be required every day at the start of class.
4. All papers, homework, quizzes, tests, journal entries, etc. will have a heading. This will be placed in the upper left hand corner and will include your full name, complete date, subject-period/teacher name and assignment.

**Attendance Policy:**

1. It is important to attend class and participate in class discussions and activities. You will receive a notice by mail for every **7 absences**. If you reach **28 absences**, you may be denied course credit.
2. If you are absent from class on the day that a homework assignment is due, you are expected to hand in that assignment on the day that you return to class unless notified otherwise. **Check my class page for assignments missed on the day of your absence.**
3. If you are absent on the day of a test or quiz, you must see me upon your return to set up a time to take the missed assessment. You must make up the missed assessment during a free period (if am available) or after school.

**Homework Policy:**

1. Homework is an important part of the English curriculum and is meant to reinforce the work completed in the classroom. Homework will be assigned 3 to 4 times per week and will include various reading assignments, handouts, writing responses, etc.
2. All students are expected to complete homework and turn it in on its **assigned due date**. All homework assignments will be checked for completion. Some homework assignments will be graded. If you are absent on the day a homework assignment is due, it is **your responsibility to show me your completed work**.
3. **Late** **or incomplete** homework assignments will receive half credit.

**Make-up/Late Work Policy:**

1. All major writing assignments are to be handed in at the **beginning** of class on the due date given, unless there is an extenuating circumstance that I am aware of **before** the assignment's due date.
2. **Late Penalty:** For each day that the assignment is late, you will receive **a five point** **penalty** for up to five days from the assignment's appointed due date. After five days, the assignment will be entered into the grade book as a zero. If the student makes up the assignment, he or she cannot receive a grade higher than a **50**.

Grading Policy:

Homework 20%

Quizzes, Classwork, Attendance, Behavior 30%

Exams, Essays and Projects 50%

Extra help will be available on Mondays and Wednesdays after school.

STUDENTS: I have read and understand the classroom procedures and grading policy. I will honor it while in this class.

Print Name:

Signature: Date:

PARENT/GUARDIAN: My child has discussed the classroom procedures and grading policy with me. I understand it and support it.

Print Name:

Best contact phone number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: Date:

TEACHERS: We will be fair and considerate in administering all elements of the classroom procedures and grading policy

Signature: Date:

Signature: Date:

**ENGLISH 9**

**Contact Log**

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