Course Title: English 1-2
Year: 2018-2019
Course Description: This course includes the study of themes in literature as well as writing, speaking, listening, and research skills. A research project is required during each semester.
Instructional Philosophy: To provide a safe and healthy learning environment that ensures the success of all students as they make the transition to high school.
Course Objectives: In addition to covering the skills and standards described in the Nebraska Department of Education (which can be found at: https://www.education.ne.gov/academicstandards/sit/) and include reading, writing, speaking, listening, and multiple literacies, this class will examine common themes within literature. These themes are organized as follows:

English Themes:

- Quarter 1: The Bonds Between Us
- Quarter 2: Matter of Life and Death
- Quarter 3: Sweet Sorrow
- Quarter 4: Struggle for Freedom

Required Text & Other Materials (tentative):

- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Collections (textbook and workbook)
- The Odyssey by Homer
- Black and White by Paul Volponi
- Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare
- The First Part Last by Angela Johnson

Type of Assessments: Major tests and/or writing projects are to be expected at the end of each major unit. Additionally, OPS requires all English 1-2 students to complete an online reading assessment (MAP Test) twice a year and a short grammar assessment (CBA) at the end of second semester. The district also requires students to complete a research paper/project (GLE).

Grading: The grading scale will be as set forth by the OPS Board of Education:

- A = 3.26 – 4.00
- B = 2.51 – 3.25
- C = 1.76 – 2.50
- D = 1.01 –1.75
- F = 0.00 – 1.00
Grades will be calculated based on the following percentages:

- Writing 40%
- Reading 40%
- Multiple Literacies 10%
- Listening/Speaking 10%

Within each objective, there will be two different types of assessments/assignments:

- Formative 35%
- Summative 65%

Classroom Policies:

- **Late Work:** Students are expected to complete missing work, and late work will be accepted as long as there is still opportunity to learn from it. Missing assignments will not be accepted after the final summative assessment for the unit of instruction. A zero will then be entered for missing work.
- **“Re-dos”:** District protocols for redoing work or late work align with best practices that “first attempts at learning” are not to be penalized and multiple opportunities will be provided to refine work. Unless the work is part of a final, summative assessment for the unit of instruction (and depending upon the assignment), students may receive opportunities to “re-do” or refine, their work.
- **Make-up Work:** If you miss an assignment because of a legitimate absence (school activity, illness, doctor’s appointment, etc.), you are allowed to turn the assignment in upon return. If new assignments are given while you are absent, you have 2 days (1 class period) to make them up. NOTE: I am flexible to an extent. Sometimes unexpected things come up like family emergencies or extended illnesses. If this happens, I will work with you on a case-by-case basis.
- **Attendance (absences and tardies):** Omaha Public Schools are currently counting absences in minutes missed. This means that tardies and single class absences also count. These minutes are added up into school days and do NOT start over at semester. Absences are accrued all school year. Furthermore, anyone entering the classroom after the bell has stopped ringing is considered tardy, and all tardies will be noted for administrators, parents, and teachers to see.
- **Passes:** In order to leave the classroom for any reason, students must have their valid (2018-2019) school ID with them. In addition, a student must have a written pass and the clipboard from the teacher before leaving. Each student will be allowed FOUR restroom passes per semester unless they have a note from the school nurse.

Behavior Expectations:

- Rules and guidelines set forth in the student handbook will be followed in this class. Any student who distracts other students, the instructor, or interferes with the learning environment should expect consequences.
- **Electronic Devices:** Electronic devices such as cell phones deter from your ability to learn. Please make sure you have them silenced and in your bag, not out on your desk or in your hand. If you choose, you may bring a cord and charge your phone at the charging station in front of the classroom. Phones should be brought up at the beginning of the block to prevent distractions during class. Phones may then be collected from Ms. Connors during the final three minutes of class. Cell phones that are used without permission will be confiscated for the remainder of the block. Repeated infractions could result in a behavior referral to your assigned administrator. You may charge your laptops in my room, but you may not charge your phones from your laptop without permission.

Academic Dishonesty:
• Academic integrity is a reflection of the character of an individual. If a student shows he or she is dishonest, his or her parents will immediately be contacted and the student will not get credit for the assignment. There are no exceptions to this rule, so do your own work. Plagiarism will result in an automatic zero.

In conclusion, I really hope you enjoy your time in this class. I will do my best to help you learn, and we'll have fun in the process. Please remember, I will do just about anything to make sure you succeed—you just need to ask for help!

RETURN THIS SECTION TO MS. CONNORS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

Please take home this syllabus and share it with a parent or guardian. When both of you have read through it, please sign below. Bring back this section by Friday, August 31st, 2018. This is your first assignment so please take it seriously.

Student name (please print) ____________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian signature __________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian home or cell phone: __________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian e-mail: _____________________________________________________________

In addition to traditional methods of communication, I utilize a system called REMIND (www.remind.com). Remind is a free communication tool that allows me to periodically send out classroom and school reminders via text message and/or email. These messages will NOT come from my personal phone number, and any replies from you or your student will come to my REMIND account. This is available for all of my students and parents, if you are interested. Types of messages will include assignment, test and school reminders, as well as any additional resources I think may be of assistance. These messages may arrive up to a few times a week, but you can always opt out. Remember, if you have a limited number of text messages with your cellular plan, you might want to sign up for email messages rather than text messages. You are welcome to sign up for both types of messages if you wish.

If you would like to sign up, please do ONE of the following:

Option 1: Text @ConnorsHEn to the number 81010. You will then receive a prompt to finish the initial setup (for example, it might ask you for your name or birthdate).
Option 2: Go to the website rmd.at/connorshen and follow the instructions

Option 3: Simply list below any phone numbers or email addresses you would like to add to my class. This may include parents, guardians and the students themselves. When your student returns this signed slip, I will add the numbers and addresses to my class, and you will start to receive my messages.

If you aren't sure you would like to sign up at this time, you can always join later in the year!