Course Title: Basic Sophomore English

Course Number: 842  
Teacher: Ms. Nijssen  
Classroom Number: 4102  
Contact Information: nijssenm@tantasqua.org  
508-347-9301 extension 1551  
Extra-Help Night: Wednesday

Course Description:

Basic Sophomore English is a basic class designed to mirror the standard sophomore English class. The class will follow the Massachusetts Frameworks for grade 10. Emphasis will be placed on practicing comprehension and writing skills in order to prepare for the MCAS. The objective of this course is to reinforce understanding of genres of literature, elements of literature, grammar, composition, language, and technology previously taught. Poetic and literary terms will be defined, identified, and applied. Students will practice their writing skills by writing 5 paragraph essays on books they read in class. Skills learned in Freshman Literature will be reinforced.

Reading Material:

Night by Elie Wiesel  
Animal Farm by George Orwell  
Fences by August Wilson  
A Midsummer Night’s Dream or Macbeth by William Shakespeare  
(Modified Version)  
Sophomore Poetry Packet  
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s I Have a Dream speech

Course Outline:

I. Novel Unit  
   A. Comprehension  
   B. Analytical writing – 5 paragraph essays  
   C. Vocabulary  
   D. Literary terms  

II. Poetry and Drama Unit  
   A. Poetry terms and vocabulary  
   B. Analysis and comprehension  
   C. Review Shakespeare, rhyming patterns  
   D. Read one or two of Shakespeare’s plays  

III. MCAS Prep Unit  
   A. Practice test taking techniques  
   B. Practice comprehension and answering questions  
   C. Practice long composition  
   D. Review literary and poetry terms
IV. Grammar Unit
   A. Sentence structure-sentence diagram
   B. Paragraph and thesis statement
   C. Parts of Speech
   D. Prefix, Suffix, Synonyms, Antonyms, Homonyms

Class Materials:

Students are expected to be prepared for class. They will need a writing utensil and notebook. All books will be read aloud in class by the teacher and students so most likely students will not need to take their books home unless they have homework.

Grading:

At the end of Basic Sophomore English a final exam will be given that is worth 10% of your overall grade. Quarter 3 and quarter 4 are both worth 45% of your total grade.
Your quarter grades will be determined as follows:

Tests, quizzes, and projects - 30%
Writing and comprehension - 30%
Classroom participation - 15%
Classroom behavior - 15%
Homework - 10%

Evaluation of Learning:

Practicing writing skills and comprehension skills will be a foundational expectation for this course. Students will be required to brainstorm ideas before writing, utilize a graphic organizer, self edit and peer edit using teacher made rubrics. All writing assignments will be evaluated by a standard rubric. Comprehension will be practiced daily through classroom discussion and homework assignments.