

**ENGLISH 3 HONORS 2007-2008**

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This course is an intensive study of literature, composition, and rhetoric; it also includes a vocabulary-building program that focuses on pronunciation, spelling, and comprehension. All aspects of the course support Palma's Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRs), which are designed to help students grow spiritually/morally, intellectually, socially, and physically.

**REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

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| -- <i>AP English Language &amp; Composition:</i><br>Sixth Edition, Richard Vogel | -- <i>The Great Gatsby</i> , F. Scott Fitzgerald |
| -- <i>Vocabulary Workshop</i> , Level F  | -- <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> , John Steinbeck   |
| --Portfolio binder/notebook  | -- <i>Huckleberry Finn</i> , Mark Twain          |
|  | --Pens, pencil, binder paper                     |

The first few weeks of class include an intensive study of writing, mechanics, sentence completion, and reading comprehension. This unit of study is designed in part to help prepare students to take college admissions tests such as the SAT and ACT.

Students then begin a study of literature, learning about plot, setting, theme, imagery, irony, symbolism, diction, syntax, tone, and other devices. To demonstrate their understanding, students write analytical essays and creative compositions.

During the second semester students learn more about the rhetorical devices that authors use to influence readers. The purpose of this study is twofold: to lay the foundation for the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Exam, which students may choose to take in May; and to foster an appreciation for the tremendous talent and craft of some of the world's finest writers.

After the AP Exam, students finish the year with a unit that helps prepare them to write college application essays.

Throughout both semesters, students study words from the vocabulary book, which has fifteen units. Students are tested on each unit. After every three units, they take a cumulative review test covering all of the words studied since the beginning of the year.

Homework assignments are posted daily on the board in classroom A-2 and on the Palma Website. Quarter grades are determined approximately as follows:

- Essays and tests--65%
- Homework and reading quizzes--25%
- Class participation/cooperation--10%

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Students take a test on the summer reading novels during the first week of class. The score on this test is worth approximately 25% of the first quarter grade only.

A final examination is given at the end of each semester; the exam is worth 20% of the semester grade. The grades received for the two quarters that constitute a semester are each worth 40% of the semester grade.

Grades are assigned based on the percentage scale set forth by the school grading policy as detailed in the Student Handbook.

Unless otherwise instructed, students must type all written assignments or write them legibly in blue or black ink on lined, white, loose-leaf binder paper. Work done in pencil or on paper ripped from a spiral notebook will earn a failing grade. All work must be turned in on time; late work will be accepted only if the student has an excused absence for the date the work was due.

Throughout each quarter, parents will be kept apprised of their son's progress by periodic progress reports, some handed out in class and some posted on-line. In order to keep a physical record of the students' progress, I will collect some of their corrected tests after the students have seen them and we have gone over them in class. Anyone wishing to see these tests at a later date can make an appointment with me to do so. Following excused absences, students must see me to make up tests and assignments. I cannot hunt down students to remind them to make up work.

The participation/cooperation grade of any student who disturbs the class will be lowered. Significant behavior or academic problems will be dealt with according to Palma's Student Accountability and Support System.

A few classroom rules:

1. Remain quiet and attentive when I talk to the class.
2. Leave all food, drinks, and gum outside of the classroom.
3. Do not use cell phones or other personal electronic devices during class.
4. Be in your seat at the start of class, and bring books, paper, and pens every day.
5. Follow all school rules, including those regarding discipline, dress code, and academic integrity.

(detach acknowledgment slip at dotted line)

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I have read the English 3 Honors syllabus and understand what is expected.

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Student's signature

Date

Parent's signature

Date

Student's name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_