Course Overview
This course is intended to expand writing and reading skills. The literature program involves continued work on reading comprehension, and introduction to literary analysis and comparison, development of the student's appreciation of literature, both as a means of entertainment and a source of questioning and insight. Literary selections emphasize human relationships and personal growth, and discussion of these works is strongly encouraged. Forms studied are the novel, short story, poetry, the essay and drama. The phases of the writing process are reviewed, along with strategies for developing unified, coherent essays.

Course Requirements & Expectations

1. Students with an excused absence must get make-up work from the teacher or a fellow student. For the number of days you were gone, you have that same number of days to return the make-up work. Weekends do not count! If a student anticipates an excused absence (club meetings, sports, etc.), the student should check with the instructor to establish a due date prior to the excused absence.

2. Any work missed for an Unexcused School Absence must be made up. Note: students more than 30 minutes late to a class are then considered by school policy to have an unexcused absence.

3. I rarely accept late work for essays, homework, and especially in-class work. If you are absent for any reason, see the teacher for make-up due date. All assignments are due at the beginning of class. No exceptions.

4. Students are expected to submit quality work that is on time and completed neatly. All take home essays must be typed and double-spaced or written neatly. Daily homework, in-class assignments, and journals may be hand-written.

5. Students must write or type Name, Instructor’s Name, and assignment Due Date at the Top Left Section of the paper on all assignments.

6. Students will be required to use on all credit assignments the traditional three-holed, ruled binder paper with a straight cut left edge. 8 ½x11 college ruled paper is preferred.

7. All students will be held accountable for upholding the school’s Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism policies. Students who cheat on homework, test, or essay will receive no credit for that particular assignment. Students who cheat a second time on homework, tests, or final exams. Cheating is defined as, (1) unauthorized copying from another student on any assignment; (2) allowing others to copy your work or in any other way assisting another student to cheat during homework, quiz’s, tests, or final exams. Plagiarism is defined as copying or borrowing extensively from another student’s work or failure to properly give credit for an author’s ideas or words.

8. Students are expected to maintain the proper classroom behavior that is conducive to a positive and collaborative environment. Please remain in your seat at all times, raise your hand when making a comment or asking a question, remain in your seat until the final bell rings, and listen attentively when the teacher(s) or another student is speaking.
9. A student may be given Detention based on inadequate preparation for class, forgetting notes or materials, being disruptive in class, missing extensive amounts of homework. A student may be asked to attend a student/parent/teacher conference if this becomes an ongoing issue.

10. Students are expected to be dressed in the proper dress attire as detailed in the Parent/Student Handbook. Any student found to be in violation of this dress code will be seen by the instructor as a disruption to the classroom environment and be asked to report to the V.P for consultation.

Materials
- Journal Notebook
- 3-ring binder with dividers.
- Organizer/Agenda
- Independent Reading/SSR book (books to be approved by teacher)

Classroom Rules (See all posted rules in the classroom)
1. Be in your seat and ready to work when the final bell rings. No wandering during instruction.
2. No swearing, teasing, or disrespecting someone because of race, religion, sex, gender, disability, etc.
3. No eating, drinking, applying make-up or chewing gum in class.
4. Please have cell phones and music players away and off at all times in locker or backpack.
5. Follow The Golden Rule. Treat others the way you want to be treated.
6. Follow school rules per the Parent/Student Handbook.

Homework: Homework is a vital part of our classroom. A student with a diligent and steadfast approach to completing daily homework sets him or herself up for academic success. In turn, students will be asked to complete daily homework.

Tests/Quizzes: Exams will be based on the concepts, discussions, assignments, and skills being taught per unit. Students will be expected to be present for exam days (usually Fridays) and to make arrangements to take an exam before the test occurs if anticipating an absence.

Formal and SSR Essays: Essay writing will be the major skill being taught in this course. A well-written essay combines student understanding and application while reflecting major strides in a student’s ability to express him or herself in an academic setting. Essays will be analytical and content driven with an emphasis on thesis development, textual support, and essay coherence. SSR/Independent Reading essays will be in-class timed writing essays based on the student’s understanding of their individual independent reading book and each student will be assigned two SSR essay’s per semester.

Semester Exams: Semester exams will reflect themes, content, skills, and discussions covered during the academic semester. In turn, students should save notes, major assignments, and journal entries as the best way to prepare for cumulative exams.

Participation: A student’s active participation in a classroom is crucial to their ability to comprehend the material being presented in the class. A student will gain participation points in the following ways: maintaining a neat and organized notebook and binder, making meaningful contributions during class discussions, promptly engaging in journal writing, making efficient use of SSR reading time, and consistently bringing all relevant materials to class everyday.