

Dear Parents and Students,

My name is Steven Hurin and I would like to welcome you and your student to the school year and I look forward to working with your children throughout the course of the year. I am really excited to be entering into my fifth year teaching and second year here at CM Russell High. There are some really interesting and positive things happening this year in the school and in my classroom.

Before the school year starts, I do want to use this letter as an initial contact to not only introduce myself, but also establish some common understanding between my classroom and the home. First is regarding cell phone use. Based on past experience with cell phones, I will not be allowing them at all during regular class time. There is a box in my room where students will place cell phones during the period and can check them back out at the end of the period. If you need to get a hold of your child during our English class period, **you may call the front office at (406) 268-6100** and they will send up a note for your student. Some Fridays, cell phone use is may be allowed to listen to during outside reading, however, this is a privilege and not a guarantee. Do not expect to get a hold of your child via cell phone on Fridays.

Second, I attached the syllabus that contains policies and procedures that are unique for my class. Please read over and sign the slip at the bottom of this letter showing you understand the expectations of this class for the course of this year. If you have any questions please feel free to get a hold of me by email at steven_hurin@gfps.k12.mt.us.

Best Regards,

Steven Hurin
Freshman English
C.M. Russell High School

I have read and understood the content of the introduction letter and syllabus.

Student Signature

Parent Signature

English 1-2
School Year 2015-2016

Taught by Mr. Hurin
Room 313
steven_hurin@gfps.k12.mt.us

Course Description

The ninth grade yearlong course offers work in critical viewing, listening, composition, literature, and speaking. Composition will lead to development of a four to five paragraph composition. Literature will include selections of fiction, drama, poetry, non-fiction and mythology. Literature selections include *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Odyssey*, *Of Mice and Men*, and *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian*.

Objectives

The objectives for this course follow Great Falls Public Schools KUDs (Know, Understand, and Do) curriculum that unpacks the Montana State Common Standards for English Language Arts for 9th and 10th grades. Mr. Hurin has a copy of the KUDs for English Language Arts posted on his Moodle site.

Learning Activities and Grading

- Daily Work: Notes will be taken and handed in at the end of the class period. Included in the notes will be the bell work, notes on any presentations and discussion, notes from activities, and seatwork. ORB will also be recorded in notes. Your binder will be graded for completion at the end of each unit.
- Unit Assessments: These are bi-quarterly tests of what has been learned throughout the year.
- Essays and Essay Defenses: This year you will be asked to write three essays and present your essays to the class in the form of 1-2 minute speeches.
- District Assessments: There will be two written and two multiple answer district assessments. The multiple answer assessments will take the place in the grade book of a unit assessment.

Required Materials

- Course Texts (see below).
- Loose leaf paper (to turn in notes at the end of the period).
- A binder to collect notes (for your own purposes for studying and for unit completion).
- Writing utensil.

Course Textbook

Wood, L. (2005). *Elements of Literature: Third Course*. Austin, TX: Holt, Rinehart and Winston.
Wood, L. (2005). *Elements of Language: Third Course*. Austin, TX: Holt, Rinehart and Winston. (classroom set).
Warriner, J.E. & Griffith, F. (1977) *Warriner's English Grammar and Composition: Fourth Course*. New York, NY: Harcourt. (classroom set).

Supplemental Readings for 2015-2016 by unit (Subject to Change)

Steinbeck, J. (1937). *Of Mice and Men*

Alexie, S. (2007). *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*

Shakespeare, S. (1594). *Romeo and Juliet*

Homer. *The Odyssey*

Other articles intended to supplement the readings.

Classroom Rules and Policies

1. **Follow Directions:** This means that if I ask you to do something, just do it. If you have an issue with something I am asking you to do, please do so in a respectful manner that does not greatly interrupt the flow of class. If it is a major issue that will take up a great deal of time, please bring it up with me after school. I will, generally, be here until five working on various things and can make time to listen to any issues you are having in any of my classes. Unless otherwise stated here or in the school handbook, consequences look like this:
 - a. First is a warning: This is when I ask you once.
 - b. Second is a next tier consequence such as removal of cell phone use the following Friday, change in seating, or other consequence deemed appropriate by Mr. Hurin.
 - c. Third is detention: If issued, detentions are in Room 313 at 7:30 AM. I will call your parents and to discuss your attendance before this detention and your behavior.
 - i. If you are unable to come due to an extracurricular activity and are unwilling to make arrangements with your coach, I will make arrangements with your coach for you.
 - ii. If there is a different reason for not making a detention (adequate transportation, excused absence, etc.) please arrange, outside of class, for an alternative time.
 - d. Fifth is a call to parents and a disciplinary referral.
2. **Use appropriate language and tone of voice:** More specifically, I expect what professionals in teaching call “academic language.” This means that when we are in class, you are discussing work in the class rather than the social life of school or language that you would not use in front of your grandmother. Further, please refer to me as Mr. Hurin or Mr. H. Other acceptable names may be discussed in an informal setting.
3. **You will show up on time and may not leave during the first and last ten minutes of class.** Except in special, teacher approved circumstances, you will show up to class on time and begin to work on the prompt the second you go to your seat. If you show up late, you will come to class with a pass or you will be sent back to the office to get one. Teacher passes will be entered in at the end of the day. If you do need to leave, **you may not take your cell phone with you**, and I will only let you out one at a time with Mr. Hurin’s “Hall Pass of Wisdom.” Please do not take more than three minutes or you will 1) miss out on graded note taking and 2) hold up the next person who needs to use the pass.
4. **Be active in a positive learning environment:** This means keeping your hands to yourselves, using academic language, making sure you have all materials, showing up on time. Following are specific classroom rules unique to Mr. Hurin’s class.
 - a. **No Cell Phones.** They must be turned in to the box at the back of the classroom at the beginning of the period in the off or silent/vibrate position. They will not be recovered

until the bell rings, this included bathroom or other breaks. You might be allowed to use your cell phone on Fridays.

- b. **No Energy Drinks or Soda.** I do allow coffee on an as long “as no one has spilled for the year” basis. Water, juice, and juice-like drinks are absolutely allowed. **Snacks and food** may be allowed on ORB days. You may have gum as long as I neither see nor hear it on your person or anywhere else.
 - c. **Be Courteous of Others.** Absolutely no name calling. Be respectful of other people when talking. Raise your hand to be recognized in most cases. Finally, and this is a big one, refrain from touching one another. This means, in general, we keep our hands to ourselves and focus on language appropriate for the class.
 - d. **Turn in Homework on Time.** Homework assignments will not be accepted late. Major papers or projects handed in after the deadline will be worth half of the full credit possible. Once a unit is finished, all missing assignments from that unit will not be accepted. You will have 2 days to make up an excused absence.
 - e. **Your work will be your own.** Misrepresentation of academic work will result in a grade of “zero.” Examples include but are not limited to the following: plagiarism, fabrication of information, copying of homework, cheating on a test, or turning in a book report on a book we haven’t read completely.
5. **Rewards**
- a. The class will be rewarded for its conduct as a whole. The primary reward is the ability to use cell phones during the next ORB Day
6. **The following are elements of a successful school year:**
- a. A community where we get to know one another on an intellectual level.
 - b. An environment where we can all succeed as well as acquire knowledge and learn skills needed to succeed in college and work environments.
 - c. Contributing to a classroom environment which will not incur the wrath of an angry Mr. Hurin.