**Ardrey Kell’s**

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 **Freshman English**

 **2016-2017**

Ardrey Kell High School welcomes the Class of 2020! We plan to continue to build on the strong foundations established by our local middle schools with a stronger, concentrated emphasis on critical thinking, literary analysis, vocabulary development, rhetoric, composition, and discourse directly associated with the new North Carolina Common Core curriculum and the National Standards for English/Language Arts. Students, regardless of level, must complete the Common Core Measurement of Student Learning, which assesses students’ reading comprehension skills, the understanding of literary devices, and English grammar as it relates to composition. We are excited to offer instruction using the newly adopted Holt/McDougall texts and online resources specifically designed to challenge and prepare each student for success.

In accordance with Charlotte-Mecklenburg’s challenge to accelerate the learning of its students, Ardrey Kell offers three levels of the English I course.

**Foundations**

This first semester course prepares students enrolled in the ninth grade for transition to high school from middle school while establishing a foundation for the English I course in the second semester. Students learn study skills, learning styles, decision making skills, reading strategies, and career planning to better prepare them for the rigor of high school work. At Ardrey Kell, the course’s primary focus is to prepare students for the demands of the English I curriculum that all foundations students will take in the second semester. Additionally, students can expect to read as many as three novels from the CMS approved list.

**English I Standard**

This course, now truncated into a single semester, is for those students who have performed at or above grade level in the past. At this level, students should be able to work well independently as well as in groups. With a strong emphasis on literary evaluation and critical thinking beyond basic comprehension, the student’s ability to think analytically and extend their learning and connect to the external environment will be continually assessed. Assignments are designed to develop a higher level of competence with a declining level of teacher assistance. One novel may be used in this semester.

 **English I Honors**

This course is for students who have excelled in language arts beyond grade level. Committed scholars must be prepared to efficiently and effectively produce a significant amount of outside work in order to maximize their critical thinking skills and writing talents. Student will draw on an established mastery of language arts, reading, and writing in order to analyze, deconstruct, critique, and discuss literature by confidently participating in rhetoric, discourse, and expository composition. During the course of the year, honors students should anticipate two to four pieces of challenging literature. A very high standard of performance and respective assessment is uniformly expected.

Ardrey Kell expects a high standard of consistent performance and attendance from all of its students. Materials, methods, and expectations will be instituted to meet the needs of each student in addition to assessments, traditional and contemporary, designed to evaluate each student’s journey towards mastery and prepare each student for the rigors and competitiveness of the 21st century.

Our program will groom fully-independent students with the confidence to interpret, analyze, and appreciate language concepts and universal themes relating to the study of the human experience.

**Program Goals**

**Composition Competent:**

 **Writing Skills Reinforced**

* Audience awareness
* Qualities of good writing
* Grammar/spelling
* Organization/structure/syntax
* Content
* Revision and editing

 **Writing Skills Introduced**

* Use of critical material for evidence
* Revision shifting from teacher response to peer response revision

**The Essay**

* Argument, Compare and Contrast, Cause and Effect, Definition, Personal Narrative

**Grammar Schema**

 **Primary Emphasis**

* Application

**Syntactic Skills Reinforced**

* Simple sentence patterns
* Subject/verb
* Transitive and intransitive
* Verb tense
* Clause
* Fragments/complete sentences/run-ons

**Syntactic Skills Introduced**

* Compound and complex sentence patterns
* Sentence combining
* Passive and active voice
* Modification
* Verbals: infinitives, participles, gerunds
* Dependent clauses

**Literature Component: Genre/Theme**

 **Primary Emphasis**

* Read actively
* Interpret and evaluate literature

**Literary Skills Reinforced/Introduced**

* Read critically
* Develop value judgments of literature
* Understand elements of fiction/nonfiction
* Understand literary genre
* Advanced literary analysis

**Literary Focus**

* Selected short stories, nonfiction articles and essays, biographies, poetry
* Novel Study: *Lord of the Flies*
* William Shakespeare’s *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*
* Fictions from the approved CMS recommended reading