

OFFICE HOURS
Monday & Wednesday 8-9AM

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DA VINCI DESIGN ENGLISH 9 & COMPOSITION

MS. VANCE
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RM. 103

Dear Students and Parents,

Welcome to 9th grade English and Composition! It is an honor to work with you this school year. I have high expectations for academic, social, and creative development of each student through this course and the Design community. Please read the following information and fill out the contact page to help me maintain thorough contact. It is my goal to keep everyone informed about class policies, assignments/projects, student progress and school news. Additionally, you may visit my Digital Portfolio regularly to find all class documents. Parents, please do not hesitate to call, email, or visit during Office Hours should you have any questions or concerns.

Thank You,
Reyanna Vance

ESSENTIAL SKILLS {80% OF GRADE} ELA SKILLS DIRECTLY INFORMED BY THE COMMON CORE.

- 1) **Sentence Structure & Punctuation:** students use correct and precise verb tense agreement, clauses, parallel structure, comma, semicolon and colon usage, and quotation.
- 2) **Word Choice & Vocabulary:** students can evaluate and analyze author's word choice and apply analyses to their own vocabulary selection.
- 3) **Thesis:** students can identify and develop clear, focused thesis statements that are carried throughout the body of work.
- 4) **Organization & Style:** students can organize thoughts and progression of ideas, presenting them in a consistent style tailored to the proposed audience and purpose.
- 5) **Evidence:** students can identify appropriate evidence to support main ideas according to the audience and purpose.
- 6) **Commentary:** students can explain and analyze the implications of the evidence presented.
- 7) **Expository Analysis:** students can identify and employ the strategies of expository writing.
- 8) **Literary Analysis:** students can identify and employ literary analysis, including application of concepts such as figurative language, plot structure, characterization, etc.
- 9) **Reading Comprehension:** students can be able to utilize context clues, root words, inferences and use reference materials to comprehend complex texts (9th grade reading material).

HABITS OF MIND {20% OF GRADE}

ACADEMIC SKILLS THAT ENCOURAGE 21ST CENTURY SUCCESS

Quality: Formatting, editing and revising, originality, presentation and discussion skills, technology application, aesthetic attention, etc.

Accountability: In-class participation, homework completion, project checkpoint deadlines, organization, goal setting, etc.

Collaboration: CFG participation, peer evaluation negotiation skills, decision making and informal consensus, project roles, etc.

SEMESTER SCHEDULE

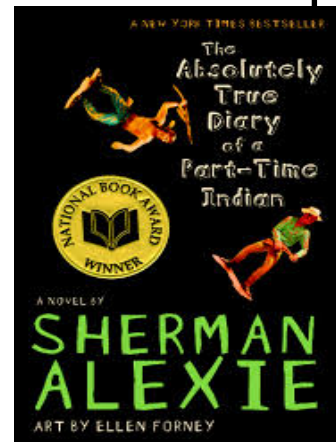
PROJECT 1: TRANSFORMING MINDS

Essential Question: How can we utilize social media to the challenge injustice?

Literature: “The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian”
by Sherman Alexie

Composition: Autobiographical Social Narrative

Deliverable: Blog Design and Social Media Analysis



PROJECT 2: THE WATER PROJECT

Essential Question: How can we use strategic design to improve the social, economic and environmental condition of water necessity in the world and/or Los Angeles?

Literature: Article Database

Composition: Persuasive Advocacy Letter

Deliverable: TBD



* Project details subject to change.



CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

DO...

Respect each other and our differences. We endorse positive attitudes and language.

Take ownership of your work and performance. Seek help when needed, ask questions and attend tutoring in Office Hours.

Arrive on time, in your seat with materials, prepared for learning... otherwise, you are tardy 1 minutes after the bell.

Participate in discussion and decision-making. Be an ACTIVE listener and contributor to projects and collaborative work.

Respect technology use by utilizing the computers/iPads for the assigned tasks and learning purposes only. Misuse will be monitored and addressed with parent contact.

DON'T...

Do not use cell phones, iPads, iPods, etc. in class unless instructed by Ms. Vance.

Do not eat food or drinks, other than water, in the classroom.

Do not violate dress code: collared shirt/appropriate length short/close toed shoes/no jeans jackets or leggings (see Handbook full dress code policy).

Do not disrupt class learning (3 Reminders will result in a Student Citizenship reflection and a parent phone call. Please see Handbook for administrator's Discipline Matrix).

GRADING

MASTERY BASED GRADING

Da Vinci Schools employ Mastery Based Grading which assesses students on individual skills or content (listed on Page 1), to isolate detailed strengths and areas of improvement. Students are given multiple opportunities to demonstrate growth and mastery through the year. Students are assessed both individually and collaboratively.

Points	Meaning	Letter Grade Equivalent
0.0	No evidence. Mark as Missing in the grade book.	I
1.0	Evidence demonstrates partial understanding.	I
2.0	Evidence demonstrates basic understanding.	C
3.0	Evidence demonstrates understanding.	B
4.0	Evidence demonstrates detailed understanding.	A
5.0	Evidence demonstrates detailed understanding and connections that go beyond the scope of teacher instruction.	A+ (or Honors designation)

**Note: Any grade lower than a C- (2.0 and below) is considered not passing (I=incomplete) (as any grade lower than a C disqualifies a student from becoming university eligible). A student that receives a grade lower than a C- will be responsible for completing recovery courses.*



LATE WORK POLICY

Students are expected to turn in work on time. If students have unexcused late work, they will lose their Accountability (Habit of Mind, worth 20% of overall grade) credit for the project/assignment.

ABSENCES

- Check Ms. Vance's Digital Portfolio for important documents. Email ASAP!
- Students have the amount of time they were absent to submit work, with a Late Work Form attached. *For example, if a student is absent one day, they have the returning day to inquire of missing work and one additional day to submit.*
- Students must take all quizzes or exams on the day they return to school, with no exceptions. *All formal assessments are announced a week in advance.*

MATERIALS

The following materials are required daily in English 9. Please see the Orientation packet for a full list of all subject materials. Students will organize and check this binder weekly in English classes.

- 9th Grade 3" Binder (all content areas)
- Composition Notebook (stored in class)
- Back/Blue pens or pencils
- Highlighters
- 3-hole punched folder

PRESENTATION OF LEARNING

Student-Led Conferences:

SLC's are held twice a year in which students present their academic progress with a teacher representative and their parents/guardians. Students examine their evidence of essential skill proficiency, as well as an action plan each student has devised to improve or continue progress.

Exhibitions: Exhibitions are held twice a year after school from 6 pm until 8 pm. Parents, family, teachers and community are invited to view and experience the projects and knowledge that students have gained over the course of the semester. Students are required to wear professional attire unless otherwise instructed by their teachers.

Presentation of Learning: POL's are reserved for the last days of each semester. Students are required to defend skills, content and application they have acquired over the course of the semester in all classes, excluding seminars and advisory. Students are required to wear professional attire; prepare a digital presentation of skills and knowledge acquired and demonstrating real world application.

* All absences must be arranged beforehand, otherwise students will receive Incomplete grades for these assessments.



CONTACT FORM

Parent(s)/Guardian(s), please complete the following form to ensure thorough partnership and collaboration this school year. Please return by **Monday, August 18th**.

Student name: _____

Parent/Guardian name(s): _____

Parent/Guardian phone numbers:

Home: _____

Cell: _____

Work: _____

Parent/Guardian email address: _____

I prefer to be contacted via: _____ **Email** _____ **Phone**

Primary language spoken in the home: _____

Siblings attending Da Vinci (please circle school):

_____	DVIA	DVD	DVC	DVS
_____	DVIA	DVD	DVC	DVS
_____	DVIA	DVD	DVC	DVS

Individuals living in the home:

Technology available to students/parents/guardians:

Computer with internet

Computer with no internet

Printer

iPad/iPod/Other tablet

Areas of expertise (interests/hobbies/skills that could be incorporated into curriculum):

Important information for teachers to note about student: