

## Frequently Asked Questions for WCHS 9th grade English (On Level and Honors)

1. How many students enroll in one course over the other?
  - a. For this school year (2017-2018), we have 16 sections of Honors English 9, two of which are supported by the Resource department, and two sections of English 9, both of which are supported.
2. What's the difference between On Level and Honors English 9?
  - a. The county assessments are exactly the same, the evidence of learning measures (writing common tasks) are the same, and most of the texts are the same.
  - b. On Level may work at a different pace, work with different texts, and provide more scaffolding of skills and chunking of major writing assignments.
3. How much homework is there in 9th grade on level English versus Honors English?
  - a. Students in On-Level English 9 can expect homework 3-4 nights a week for an average of approximately 20 minutes each night.
  - b. Honors English 9 students can expect homework every night and should spend approximately 30 minutes each night.
4. What do 9th grade teachers provide for students who struggle?
  - a. In both courses, teachers plan lessons that scaffold instruction for struggling students. Additionally, every teacher is required to hold office hours for extra help.
  - b. We also run our Writing Lab during lunch, which is staffed by our English composition assistants and further supported by National English Honors Society tutors. Students can go there at lunch to work on an assignment, or for specific feedback or help with writing skills. Composition Assistants are familiar with all of our major writing assignments.
5. What can students expect from the curriculum in 9th grade English classes?
  - a. The first semester is called "Writing and Language." In each quarter, students will complete three writing tasks: argument, narrative, and analysis.
  - b. The second semester is called "Literature and Language." Students will explore three units: Literature as Craft, Literature in Context, and Literature as Art.
6. What English electives can my 9th grade take?
  - a. Any of our publications (Newspaper, Yearbook, or Literary Magazine) begin with an introductory level course that is open to freshmen. These courses are a great way to build your child's skills in writing, teamwork, time management, organization, and publication layout.
7. If parents or students have additional questions about English 9, whom should they contact?
  - a. Email the English Resource Teacher, Mrs. Jennifer Miller
    - i. [jennifer\\_e\\_miller@mcpsmd.org](mailto:jennifer_e_miller@mcpsmd.org)
    - ii. [jennifer.e.miller@mcpsmd.net](mailto:jennifer.e.miller@mcpsmd.net)