

Language Skills 9A  
Mrs. Laura McCarthy  
2013-2014  
Room A203

**Course Webpage:** [mrsmccarthydomain.weebly.com](http://mrsmccarthydomain.weebly.com)

**Contact Information:**

810.225.5735 School  
[lmccarth@pcs.k12.mi.us](mailto:lmccarth@pcs.k12.mi.us)

**Texts:**

The Language of Literature (McDougal-Littell)  
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck  
*Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

**Course Description:**

This course will provide students with a variety of opportunities to refine their skills in language: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. We will utilize activities and methods that include, but are not limited to: cooperative learning, conversation, reflection, vocabulary and grammar study, text analysis, compositions, and public speaking to enhance the learning of the English language.

**Class Understandings/Expectations:**

- Turn in all assigned work on time. In turn, I promise to return your work in the most expedient manner possible.
- Listen to me and to each other (maintain good eye contact, ask relevant questions, take notes, etc. In turn, I promise to try my best always to listen to and hear each one of you.
- Respect each other and our learning community. In turn, I promise to respect all of you as learners.
- Realize that no one (including yourself) is perfect-be patient with yourself. In turn, I promise to have patience, and to never laugh at you if you make a mistake.
- Attempt each project/activity that we undertake. In turn, I promise to help you in any way possible to make each new endeavor clear to you.
- Be a positive influence in our classroom. In turn, I promise to try my best to make our time together bright and cheerful.

**Course Requirements:**

Students will be responsible for the following:

- In-class activities
- Independent Reading (you will need something to read during this time)
- Homework
- Metacognition Logs
- Quizzes
- Tests
- Presentations
- Projects
- Participation
- Written Assignments

**Grading Scale:**

93%-100%	A	73%-76%	C
90%-92%	A-	70%-72%	C-
87%-89%	B+	67%-69%	D+
83%-86%	B	63%-66%	D
80%-82%	B-	60%-62%	D-
77%-79%	C+	Below 60%	E

**Basis for Semester Grade:**

Each semester grade is based on three parts. Each marking period will count as 40% of the semester grade, and the exam will be worth 20%.

To receive a passing grade, at least two of the three components must be passed, and the final class average must be a .53 GPA (on a 4.00 scale) to receive credit for the class.

**MISTAR:**

This is the electronic grade book used throughout Pinckney Community Schools. Parents and students should have a password so that grades and assignments can be checked at any time. Please contact me with any difficulties you might have with your MISTAR account.

Assignments will be marked "Missing" until turned in. This includes those assignments that are late and/or the result of an absence. Grades will be posted within 1 week of the due date, with the exception of larger written assignments and/or projects. These will be posted within 10 days of the due date. An e-mail message will be sent out to all parents and students with an active MISTAR account any time there is an assignment missing.

**Student Feedback:**

Feedback will be provided both formally and informally. Students and parents may check MISTAR for updated grades, or contact me via e-mail or phone with any questions and/or concerns.

**Make-Up Work:**

According to the PCHS Student Handbook, students have the same number of days to make up work as the number of days they are absent. Students should make arrangements with me regarding make-up quizzes and tests. These must be completed outside of the student's regularly scheduled class period. A Weekly Agenda of assignments and current school events can be found on my website: <http://mrsmccarthysdomain.weebly.com>.

When a student is absent, s/he should check the Weekly Agenda for any make-up work. In addition, s/he should check the assignment bin and collect what s/he missed. It is the student's responsibility to obtain all make-up work including tests and quizzes. See me with any questions. These steps will help the student stay connected to what occurs in class, so that s/he feels comfortable returning to school.

**Late Work:**

Students are expected to complete all assignments and turn them in on time. Late work is detrimental to grades. Therefore, the following policy applies. Students will be given two Homework Passes per quarter. These cannot be used for tests, quizzes, projects, or large papers. If the assignment is not turned in at the time it is collected, it is considered late. The student has 1 day to turn that assignment in for a maximum of up to half credit. After that 1 day, the student cannot earn credit however is still encouraged to complete the work so as to keep up with the material. Please contact me immediately with any questions and/or concerns regarding the late work policy.

**Extra Help:**

Students who wish to have extra help should contact me right away. I am available before and after school. Study Groups will be held throughout the semester. Don't wait until you are in trouble to get the help you need!

**Extra Credit:**

Occasional opportunities (1-2 per marking period) for extra credit may be given. Possible extra credit points will be determined at the time of the assignment. At the end of each marking period, any unused Homework Passes can be submitted for 5 extra credit points each for a total of up to 10 points. Extra credit will only be available to those students who have no missing and/or late work.

**Absences and Tardies:**

Students are expected to be on time and to attend class each day. If you are unable to attend class, please follow procedures for obtaining your make-up work. All attendance-related matters will be handled in accordance with the PCHS Student Handbook. Remember that excessive tardies and absences can affect your grade!

**Laptop Protocol:**

1. A charged computer must come to class with you each day.
2. If you fail to bring your computer or your computer privileges have been revoked, you are still expected to remain on task and complete all work by the end of the hour.
3. Computer lids are to be closed when the bell rings. Computers will only be used when students are directed to do so by the teacher.
4. No games.
5. No Skype.
6. All assignments **MUST** be printed before you walk in the door. You may print an assignment to the Media Center. However, it is advised that you prepare in the event those printers are not working. An assignment which is not printed before class begins will be marked late. Papers **CANNOT** be emailed to the teacher unless you are instructed to do so.
7. Computers may be monitored with Lan School. If you are not using your computer in a productive manner, you will be required to shut it down for the remainder of the hour, and you will risk receiving a zero on the current assignment.

**Major Assignments:**

In an effort to promote ethical writing practices, all major assignments (deemed by the teacher) will be submitted to Turnitin.com.

**Recommended Materials:**

- 1 and 1/2 inch three ring binder
- 8 tabbed dividers
- college-ruled notebook paper
- 1 college-ruled spiral notebook
- pencil and pen
- 1 highlighter

\*Parents: If the purchase of any of these items is not possible, please contact me so that we can make other arrangements for your son/daughter.

**Electronic Communications:**

- <http://www.mrsmccarthysdomain.weebly.com>
- [lmccarth@pcs.k12.mi.us@pcs.k12.mi.us](mailto:lmccarth@pcs.k12.mi.us@pcs.k12.mi.us)

## Language Skills 9A

### STUDENTS/PARENTS/GUARDIANS:

Please sign this portion of the syllabus and return it to me on or before September 6th for your first grade. This assignment is worth 25 points.

Thank you!

I have read the syllabus and understand what is expected of me. Should I have questions or concerns, I will address them with Mrs. McCarthy. I have shared this syllabus with my parent(s)/guardian(s). This syllabus is now located in the front of my binder, and I will consult it throughout the year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(student name/signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hour

My student has shared the syllabus for LS 9A with me. We have discussed it. Any concerns I have are listed below. Please call me to discuss these concerns.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(parent/guardian name/signature)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(date)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(phone # where I can be reached)

Comments/concerns that I have: