

## **Welcome to English Lab 3-4!**

### **Mr. Hamilton - Room 223**

#### **Course Description:**

This class is for students who show a pattern of significant underachievement in reading. Course objectives for students include developing grade level reading skills and success in content area classes through individualized diagnosis and instruction in reading, completing computer assisted reading practice and review of basic skills. Independent and assisted study opportunity is directed for work assigned in other classes and independent self-selected reading.

#### **Typical Week:**

Each week, students will work on a variety of tasks designed to help improve reading skills within their particular areas of need. Most generally, students will not have homework in this class and should bring work from other classes with them if they need help. That is part of our goal: to help students be successful in their other classes. You will be given 20 minutes on most days for silent reading or to receive help with homework.

#### **Classroom Expectations/Non-Negotiables**

**Be prepared and ready to learn.** Be in your seat when the bell rings, bring required tools for learning (Required Tools: reading material/homework, pen/pencil, notebook, learning attitude, SSR book).

**Respect yourself and others.** Use language that is appropriate, treat others as you would like to be treated.

**Do your personal best every day.** Participate actively and cooperate, complete work neatly and turn it in on time.

**Electronic Devices:** Electronic devices (cell phones, MP3 players, iPods, CD players, etc.) are not permitted in my classroom as they interrupt the learning process. If students have electronic devices, I expect them to be turned off and out of sight for the entire class period. If I see a student has a device or a phone rings during class, it will be confiscated until the end of the period. A second infraction will result in confiscation until the end of the day. The third infraction results in confiscation and a parent will be required to pick it up from the office. A referral will also be written and discipline will be given from the office.

**Audio Books:** Students in my English Lab classes will have the opportunity to check out and read audio books as research has proven that students become better readers when they listen to the book **as they read**. This means that students may check out books as well as MP3 players from me. These resources are expected to be returned just like any other text book. Students may use their own earphones, or ones provided.

**Computer Use:** Using school district computers, include those in my classroom means that you understand and agree to operate the equipment responsibly and appropriately. Damage to computers, computer systems or software, or theft of any materials will result in school discipline and fines to pay for repair or losses. Playing games, listening to music or using the internet is prohibited unless permission has been granted. Remember that these computers are for school use not personal use, and students who choose to use the computers inappropriately will lose their participation points for the day.

**Grading:** This class is graded differently than many classes. The class will be graded strictly on engagement on a 0 to 5 point scale. Engagement working independently or in small groups on reading activities. Please understand that this grade is not up for discussion and should be accepted by the student. After that time, students will be assigned one to two activities per week that will be graded out of 10 points. Semester grades are calculated based on the percentage of combined total points each quarter along with a semester final that is weighed as 10%.

Letter grade breakdown:

93-100% = A	83-86% = B	73-76% = C	60-66% = D
90-92% = A-	80-82% = B-	70-72% = C-	<60% = F
87-89% = B+	77-79% = C+	67-69% = D+	

**Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a fancy word for cheating. Any form of cheating is considered to be a serious infraction. If any student is caught cheating, he or she will receive a zero for the assignment as will the student whose paper was being used and a referral will be written to the office. If I catch you copying work for another class, I will notify that teacher and a referral will be written. Basically, do your own work!

**Attendance and Tardiness:** In order to be successful in Lab, it is important that you are at school each day. As this class is based on what work the student completes in class, absences will result no points for that day. Students can make up points for excused absences by coming in outside of class and silently reading, or going to an afterschool tutoring session and working on reading or homework. Students can lose one daily point for being tardy to class. This classroom will follow the school's tardy policy as outlined in the student handbook.

**Contact:**

Email: [christopher.hamilton@ksd.org](mailto:christopher.hamilton@ksd.org)

School phone: 509-222-6074 (leave message)

Website: <http://hamiltonkahs.weebly.com> (important assignments and daily class activities)

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(cut and return to teacher)

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read these expectations. I understand that I choose my behaviors and the resulting consequence, positive or negative.

I also understand that my child may check out an MP3 player for reading audio books, and I will be responsible if it is lost, stolen or damaged. We are also responsible for providing earphones to use the MP3 players. \_\_\_\_\_ (please initial)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent signature

*Parent(s): Please provide an email address and/or the best telephone number where you can be contacted during the day:*

\_\_\_\_\_.