**English II Syllabus**

**Teacher**—Ms. Vanderford (aka Ms. V or Coach V)

**Room** – M100

**Email** – vanderforde@scsk12.org

**Website** - <https://schools.scsk12.org/domain/6846>

**Phone**  – (901) 286-5454

**Remind**— <https://www.remind.com/join/4af9d7>

**Please use the REMIND App or text to communicate with me… I receive over 100 emails a day and I may overlook some of them.**

**Planning Period** – 1st period (this is the best time to contact me via Remind if you need an immediate response)

***By signing your initials, both parents/guardians and students acknowledge and understand the preferred communication methods.***

**Student Initials \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Initials \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

# **English II Course Description**

Our class will follow the curriculum outlined for English I for all Memphis-Shelby County Schools. Our content will be shared primarily using Pearson's My Perspectives, our Class Website, and Teams In our classroom, students will:

* Build strong reading foundational skills, starting in the early grades. Foundational literacy skills unlock the code of text so that students can read and write. We aim for all students to gain these critical skills in the early grades while supporting students of all ages as they strive towards reading proficiently.
* Work with worthwhile and complex texts. By reading, discussing, and writing about rich texts students build their understanding of the world and their understanding of language. Students must experience a staircase of text complexity across their K-12 experience to prepare them for college and careers.
* Experience a volume of reading to build knowledge, vocabulary, fluency, and independence. Reading a large volume and wide variety of texts provides students with critical practice in skills- and meaning-based competencies. This practice also builds more confident readers and lifelong reading habits.
* Regularly discuss and write about texts, grounded in evidence. Students read texts closely and are challenged to speak and write about what they have read using evidence to justify their positions. Practice should include a focus on the academic language of texts and using such language in discussions and writing.
* Own the thinking of the lesson. Students should do most of the reading, thinking, speaking, and talking in our classrooms, supported by their peers and their teacher. Students engage in the work of the lesson and take ownership of their learning.

***By signing your initials, both parents/guardians and students acknowledge and understand the general academic expectations of the English II class.***

**Student Initials \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Initials \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Supply List (Students should have these items each day):**

**Students should have their supplies by August 11, 2025 (Excluding the laptop)**

* Laptops
* 3-Ring Binder (2 inches)
* College-Ruled Notebook Paper (NO Spiral Notebooks)
* Writing utensils
* Color Pencils
* Markers
* Highlighters

***By signing your initials, both parents/guardians and students acknowledge and understand the supplies are mandatory, required by August 11, and students MUST bring them to class every day.***

**Student Initials \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Initials \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Classroom Expectations**

1. Follow all directions the first time given.
2. No teasing, bullying, cyber bullying, or offensive language, including cursing.
3. Use respectful tone when speaking to teacher and peers.
4. Come to class on time and be present for the entire class period.
5. No food or drink during class unless given permission.
6. Refrain from using other devices during class unless otherwise instructed by me.
7. Stay on task, and actively and appropriately participate in learning.
8. Do not move the classroom furniture, including the portable charging dock, without permission.
9. Students are required to sit in their assigned seats unless otherwise allowed to move.
10. Students are not allowed to leave class 15 minutes before dismissal.
11. Students may only use the restroom one at a time and may not go during teacher-led instruction (emergencies will be assessed on a case-by-case basis).

***By signing your initials, both parents/guardians and students acknowledge and understand the classroom expectations in Ms. Vanderford’s class.***

**Student Initials \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Initials \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Consequences for Failing to Follow Policies:**

* Step 1--Verbal reminder of expected norm
* Step 2— Step outside of the class to talk with the teacher.
* Step 3— Email Parent
* Step 4—Parent/guardian phone call
* Step 5--Administrative contact

***By signing your initials, both parents/guardians and students acknowledge and understand the consequences for failing to follow both school and classroom policies.***

**Student Initials \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Initials \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Late Work Policy**

* Work submitted after it was originally due will be docked 10% each day it is late.
* Work submitted more than one week (5 school days) late will NOT receive any credit.
* When work is not submitted, it will become a 0 in PowerSchool.
* Late/Missing work must be submitted with a completed “Late Work” slip signed by the student and parent/guardian.

\*Absent students have as many days as they were absent to make up an assignment. (For example, if Frank was absent for one day, he has one day to make up absent work before the Late Work Policy goes into effect.)

\*Students who are absent due to OSS/ISS do not receive make-up days for missing assignments. These students will be required to view their assignments in TEAMS. Physical assignments such as worksheets may be submitted the day they return to class. Digital assignments may be submitted upon completion.

***By signing your initials, both parents/guardians and students acknowledge and understand the GHS Late Work Policy.***

**Student Initials \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Initials \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Grading Process for Late Work:**

* Due to the need to prioritize and grade current assignments first, I cannot guarantee that late submissions will be graded and entered into PowerSchool promptly.
* Late assignments will be assessed as soon as I am able to do so, but please be aware that this may lead to delays in feedback and grade updates.

**Microsoft TEAMS:**

* Students are required to check TEAMS at least once a day.
* Students who are absent from class will get their missing work from TEAMS.
* All assignments are located in the “Assignment” tab of TEAMS.
* Classwork, Teacher PowerPoints, notes, etc. are located in the “Classwork” section of TEAMS.

***By signing your initials, both parents/guardians and students acknowledge and understand the grading process for late/missing work and that all assignments are located in Microsoft Teams. Students agree to check their TEAMS at least once a day.***

**Student Initials \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Initials \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Grading Policy**

* A: 90-100
* B: 80-90
* C: 70-80
* D: 60-70
* F: 59 and below

**Grading Categories for MSCS**

* Homework: 10% (min. of 4 grades)
* Class Participation: 5% (min. of 4 grades)
* Classwork: 40% (min. of 4 grades)
* Projects/Portfolios/Presentations: 5% (min. of 1 grade)
* Assessments: 40% (min. of 4 grades)

**Note:** Semester grades are determined by counting the two quarter grades as 85% and the semester examination as 15%.

***By signing your initials, both parents/guardians and students acknowledge and understand the grading policy and categories for MSCS.***

**Student Initials \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Initials \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Plagiarism**

Germantown High School values academic honesty and believes plagiarism is a serious offense. Using the work of other people in any way is stealing intellectual property. In the high school setting, it can result in the failure of an assignment, but in a college setting, plagiarism can lead to failure in an entire course or worse. Most importantly, if a student plagiarizes, he or she is not learning, and the goal of the school is for students to learn.

***A student has plagiarized if he or she:***

* Has failed to give credit to the proper sources any time an assignment has been completed with the aid of an outside source, whether that source is an electronic translator, literary analysis, or other students.
* Has copied another person’s work, be it the work of an author or another student, without the use of quotation marks and proper credit following the quote.
* Has paraphrased an item without giving the original author credit.
* Has inappropriately collaborated with other students.
* Has allowed another student to copy his or her work.
* Has resubmitted his or her own work or the work of another student that was submitted in a previous class or activity. Consequences for plagiarism:
* If a student has plagiarized, been involved in plagiarism, or allowed plagiarism of his or her own work, even inadvertently, the student will receive a **ZERO** on the assignment.
* If two students have turned in work that is the same, all or in part, both students will receive **ZEROES** on the assignment.
* Many clubs and organizations at GHS look at these records to determine whether a student meets membership qualifications.

***By signing your initials, both parents/guardians and students acknowledge and understand that plagiarism, including the improper use of A.I, is a serious offence and could result in a ZERO and/or failure of the course.***

**Student Initials \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Initials \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Progress Reports and Extra Credit**

* In addition to regular progress reports sent home school wide, I will be updating grades weekly in Power School. As such, students and parents can check grades weekly. It is the student's responsibility to let me know immediately of any discrepancies in their grade and their graded work.
* Extra credit may be offered during the year. Extra credit work means extra work and extra time put forth on a specifically assigned project. The work must be high quality, and late extra credit work will not be accepted.
* Students who do not attempt regularly assigned work do not qualify for extra credit.
* Extra Credit will not be added to the student’s grade until the end of each Quarter. This is to have the points added to those assignments that will help improve their grade the most.

***By signing your initials, both parents/guardians and students acknowledge and understand that students are responsible for checking their grades via PowerSchool and must immediately inquire about discrepancies in their grade and graded work. You also acknowledge and understand the Extra Credit protocol in Ms. Vanderford’s class.***

**Student Initials \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent/Guardian Initials \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Donations**

If you want to help out, I usually run out of these supplies every year:

● Tissues

● Hand Sanitizer

● Paper Towels

● Band-aids

● Sanitizing Wipes

**Students are not allowed to answer texts or calls during class. If you need to reach them during the school day, please contact (901) 416-0955. The class is fast paced, and I want to make sure that they have adequate time to complete their coursework.**

Thank you for your help and support this year and if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email me as that is the quickest way to receive a response!

**Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**(Print)**

**Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**(Print)**

**Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**