



Welcome to English

STUDENT GUIDE

Mrs. Blow

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

What do I bring to class?

Come to class prepared. Bring your **planner**, **ELA binder**, **Chromebook** and **ORB** every day. We use lots of sticky notes, highlighters, **pencils**, and colored pens or pencils. It makes learning fun. I will not allow you to leave class while I am giving directions, which means you will fall behind if you arrive unprepared.

Do I need an English Binder?

Binders help you to stay organized. We have some pretty cool magazines, notes, and writing guides. We use these resources throughout the year, so being able to locate them will be very helpful. Please don't throw anything away. We will clean the binders periodically.

How do I keep track of my homework?

Use a planner. You have many teachers in middle school. Tracking assignments from different teachers can be a challenge. Homework assignments are posted in every homeroom. During homeroom, record the assignments in your planner. During English class or study hall, you may want to check the homework board and update any changes in your planner.

What are the homework expectations?

I expect every assignment to be your best work. The quality of your work is a reflection of who you are as a student and later as an adult. So, if you submit incorrect or shoddy work, you will be asked to do it over. Please do your assignments in black or blue ink or pen or pencil, saving the colored pens and pencils for other activities. You may type assignments, if you follow the homework guidelines. Completing homework prepares you for tests, which is why homework weighs as much as tests and quizzes. Student who struggle to complete homework are invited to stay after school to get it done.

What is an ORB?

Hint: It is not an alien. An ORB is an outside reading book. ORB projects are assigned every quarter. You should always have an outside reading book (ORB) with you during English class and study halls. Every. Single. Day. You are expected to read at least 30 minutes a day. If you finish work early, you will be expected to read during class and study hall.

What is a portfolio?

A portfolio is a collection of your work that demonstrates your growth as a reader and writer. We will keep track of the books you read and save your BEST writing here. This year, we will create digital portfolios, so you can show your parents your progress throughout the year.

KEYS TO YOU SUCCESS

What do I do if I need help?

Don't be afraid to ask questions during class. No question is foolish. If I answer your question and you are still confused, please see me after class. I will be happy to set up a time to help you.

Do you use computers in your class?

YES! We use a LOT of technology. Many assignments and resources are posted in Google Classroom, so you can work on your assignments from home. Please be respectful and follow the classroom rules. WARNING: We have tracking software that tells us what you are doing. If you are off task during class or using technology inappropriately, you will lose computer privileges in my classroom and possibly in every class.

What do I do if I'm Absent?

If you are absent from school, please see me when you return to school. I will explain your homework. You have two school days to hand in assignments once you return. However, I understand that there may be extenuating circumstances. If this is the case, please see me, and we can make a plan.

If you are absent from English, but you are in school, you are still responsible for handing in assignments. This happens a lot when students miss class for music lessons. Please see me **BEFORE** homeroom to hand in your homework and pick up your assignment.

What happens if I get into trouble?

If you are respectful, responsible, and ready to learn, you don't have anything to worry about. If you have a bad day, we will have a conversation to discuss how you can turn it around. If that becomes a challenge, depending on the situation, further consequences can occur: 1) a call home to parents, 2) a referral or formal documentation of your behavior, or 3) a visit to the principal's office.

ENGLISH ASSESSMENTS

What is a unit or interim test?

Periodically, you will take a test to see if you mastered the content and skills taught in class. I don't want you to get lost in class, so if many students are confused, I will review. If a few students are confused, I will work individually with them, so everyone can be successful.

When are the state tests?

Don't stress, but take state tests seriously. They are important, but if you participate in class and do your homework, you will be fine. Review classes will be offered a month before the test. Please plan to attend. The 1016-2017 tests are scheduled for the week of March 27-31.

What are final exams?

At the end of the year, there is a final exam to see how well you mastered the reading and writing skills we learned throughout the year. Take these tests seriously, but again, if you pay attention all year, you will be fine. Final exams are 20% of your overall grade. The score is averaged in with your four report card grades to calculate your overall grade point average (GPA) in English.