

Ms. Bell
Rm. 196
English

Welcome to our English Class!

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go..."

~Dr. Seuss, Oh, the Places You'll Go!

I am looking forward to working with and getting to know you over the course of the year. This course will offer a variety of opportunities designed to challenge your ideas; to develop your skills, understanding and knowledge; and hopefully, to foster your appreciation of language and literature. While I believe that learning should be engaging, it is not always fun: learning and growth also require hard work, repetition and risk-taking. My role is to provide you with tools and occasions to question, to think and to learn. How you choose to use those opportunities is up to you. Good luck!

In order to make the most of your school year, please keep in mind the following expectations:

1. Be respectful of others, of your surroundings and of yourself.
2. Be responsible- Come to every class prepared to learn and participate fully in all activities.
3. Be productive- Give your best effort and produce work you are proud of.

General Information and Classroom Procedures:

1. Attendance

Regular attendance is required to be successful. If absent, it is your responsibility to catch up on any class work or assignments missed. Having the phone number of at least one student in the class is strongly suggested for finding out what you missed. Not all class work can be made up, however; thus absences, even if excused, may affect your final letter grade. Also a note signed by your parent/guardian should follow a lengthy absence.

2. Punctuality

Please show respect by being on time for class. If you are late, enter quietly and take your seat. Students who are repeatedly late may need to make up the time missed learning during after school tutorials.

3. Assignments

Assignments should be submitted at the beginning of class on the due date to the bins provided. Late work will not receive written feedback past the due date. While late marks will not be deducted from the actual assignment, lateness will be noted and considered in your final evaluation (as part of "Social Responsibility"). Students behind in their work may be required to attend tutorial sessions until caught up.

Assignments should be completed in blue or black ink or typed. Please include your first and last names, your period and the date on all submitted work.

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**It is expected that all student work is their own or, where directed, a collaborative effort by the group. Students who attempt to either pass off another's work as their own (including cutting and pasting from the internet or having tutors complete work) will receive a zero and will redo the assignment to demonstrate understanding, but for a maximum score of 50%. Please refer to the Argyle Agenda for more information on plagiarism.

4. Extra Help

I am available for extra help every morning during school-wide flex time. If you have been absent, this is the time to discuss missed work or assignments, not at the beginning or end of class when I need to get ready for the next class.

5. Materials

You will need the following materials for every class: pen, pencil, highlighter, binder and paper, section dividers, small post-it notes, and any assigned texts. Additional equipment that may be required occasionally includes glue stick, felt pen and scissors. A good dictionary and thesaurus are also recommended for home use.

6. Participation

Class and group discussions are an integral component of the learning process. I strongly encourage you to ask questions and to offer opinions and ideas. A large part of your mark in English is based upon the development of your skills and your thinking. Formal assignments do not constitute your total evaluation.

7. A Few Reminders...

Class commences when the bell goes; you are considered present when you have your materials out ready to begin.

Class finishes when I dismiss you; please refrain from packing up your belongings before this time.

Electronic devices in class are distracting to you and disruptive to others. Please leave them in your bag unless instructed to use for specific educational purposes. After one warning, they may be confiscated.

Wishing you a challenging, enjoyable and successful year!

Ms. Bell