

2020-2021 COVID-19 Addendum

This year, in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, we have all experienced changes and adaptations in order for our usual routines to go on as close to normal as can be expected. My classes are no exception to these changes.

As a person with high personal risk factors to this disease, I need to ask that all students wear face coverings in my class at all times. Not only does this practice help to protect me and my family but all of the students in class, especially those who also have increased risk.

Additionally, masks allow the classroom to benefit from using the teaching methods that are most effective for in-person Language Arts education, such as group work, presentations, and full classroom discussion. These methods are what many students missed most in our remote-only Spring 2019 semester (whether they were conscious of it or not). The courses and opportunities for learning simply are not the same without them.

Finally, due to class sizes, the physical space available in my room is already inadequate for the recommended social distancing of 6ft, even when student desks are placed as far apart as possible from one another. Masks will help to mitigate this problem, particularly in the classes with more students.

So for the reasons above, students will be required to wear masks or face shields in all of my courses.

Thank you for your understanding.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nathan Barham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Again, in brief:

Masks will be required in Mr. Barham's classes for three reasons:

1. Personal increased risk factors for Mr. Barham himself
2. To enable the lessons that make in-person Language Arts education effective
3. Class enrollment numbers limit social distancing possibilities in Mr. Barham's room

Language Arts Syllabus

High School

Mr. Barham

Room #14

Email: nbarham@sd282.org

Welcome back. Whether you are beginning high school in 9th grade or finishing up as a senior, I hope you have had a relaxing summer and are ready to start a new school year. Each course that I teach is intended to be an extension of your previous experience in English and will help you grow as a writer, a reader, and a student. Those of you who have already had my class in previous years will probably notice a pattern.

Classroom Rules:

- I will treat you with respect, so you will know how to treat me.
- Feel free to do anything that doesn't cause a problem for anyone else.
- If you cause a problem, I will ask you to solve it.
- If you can't solve the problem, or choose not to, I will do something.
- What I do will depend on the person and the situation.
- If you feel something is unfair, discuss it with me after class.

Required Materials:

- GSD-issued Laptop and Stylus
- Pen or Pencil
- Class Notebook
- Novel for Outside-of-Class Reading

Grading

Outside-of-Class Reading – 10%

At Genesee High School all English students are required to read material outside of the assigned novels that are used for the classroom curriculum (1000 pages per semester). Students may choose any novel they like, subject to my approval. Not every book is acceptable for this assignment, but a recommended list will be provided which includes some appropriate, challenging, and diverse titles.

Tardies – 10%

For most students, tests and important presentations or projects seem like the scariest items on the grading list. But for many, the hardest part is being on time with the proper materials. Students who arrive late or unprepared are subject to the GSD tardy policy (1% per tardy).

Assignments – 20%

Most of our classroom assignments will be completed using Google Classroom and the accompanying applications on the school-issued computers. From vocabulary to quick quizzes to short writing assignments, your daily practice in class is measured here.

Notebook

Every student will be provided with a classroom notebook for use only with this class. This is our primary way of capturing and recalling important vocabulary and concepts from information I present. If you are absent, you need to make sure you get the notes you missed.

Requirements:

- Labeled Composition Notebook (provided)

Assessments – 60%

Essays, presentations, tests, and other projects make up the largest portion of the grade. Why? Because these are each opportunities to show what you know about literature and writing.

If you receive an assessment grade that you're unhappy with, see me and we'll work out a plan that lets you demonstrate your knowledge more accurately.

Cheating

Cheating will not be tolerated in this class. It is important that each student is doing his or her own work. Collaboration skills are more important than ever, but it will be clear when it is unacceptable to get help from others. Students caught cheating will receive a zero on the particular assignment and will be subject to the school cheating policy.

Late Work

Turning in your work on time is an important part of being a high school student. If an assignment is late, be prepared to receive reduced credit. The longer you wait, the lower the grade will be.

That said, it is more important to complete the course work than to just be on time. So, if you've dropped the ball on an assignment, see me and we can work out a plan.

Student Responsibility Statement

Please read, sign, and get your parent/guardian's signature:

We understand that parents, students, and teachers must work together to provide the best education possible. We have reviewed and understand the classroom information and grading policies. We specifically note that student responsibilities include:

- Regular attendance in class.
- Behavior that helps to provide the best learning environment for all.
- Bringing all required materials to class—**including a fully charged laptop each day.**
- Completion of assignments and participation in class.
- Arranging for and making up all missing work within the allowed time following an excused absence.

Student Signature:

Parent Signature: