

# 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 stroke at the end.

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

# Speech Syllabus

Mr. Barham

Room #14

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Welcome to Speech. It is often said that people fear public speaking more than any other challenge. The purpose of this course is to prepare you to speak in front of an audience with a higher level of confidence. Many of your other high school (and eventually college) classes will require presentations, and Speech will only make those assignments easier.

Classroom Rules:

- **Your grade is your responsibility.**
- 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:

- Pen or Pencil
- Class Notebook

## Grading

### **Tardies – 10%**

For most students, big tests and important presentations or projects seem like the scariest items on the grading list. Really, the hardest part is being in class, on time, and with the proper materials. Showing up unprepared will not keep you from losing points (1% per tardy).

### **Assignments - 20%**

Though the course is designed to help you practice and improve your presentation skills in front of an audience, there are some assignments that do not fall into this category. Works Cited pages, feedback sheets, and short response writing are sometimes scored. When they are, they will be placed in this category.

### **Notebook**

Every student will be provided with a classroom notebook for use only with this class. Throughout the year, we will check the notebooks for a grade. Some notebook assignments will be submitted using Google Classroom. If you are absent, you need to make sure you get any notes you missed.

Requirements:

- Labeled Composition Notebook (provided)

## Speeches – 70%

Over the course of the semester, you will present 6-8 speeches for the class. There will always be a significant amount of time dedicated to preparing, revising, and rehearsing. If you use your time wisely, there should be nothing to worry about. However, a student cannot pass Speech without completing the required speeches.

**You must *complete* (earn a passing grade and meet the required duration) the 4 major speeches in order to pass: How-to, Informative, Persuasive, Manuscript/Debate.**

## 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, and it will be clear when it is acceptable to get help from others. However, students caught cheating will receive a zero on the particular assignment and will be held to the school cheating policy.

## Late Work

Major assignments in Speech usually require a scheduled presentation date. For the class to function properly, students with speeches scheduled need to be in class and ready to give their speeches, including any props or materials required. Late speeches will receive reduced credit and students may have to arrange before/after school presentations in certain situations.

## Student Responsibility Statement

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

We understand that parents, students, and teachers must work together to provide the best education possible for each student. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_