

Bullitt East High School Pre-AP English 1 Syllabus 2018-2019

Teacher: Ms. Smythe

Contact: Laura.Smythe@bullitt.kyschools.us

Planning: 6th Period

Website: MsSmytheEnglish.weebly.com

Overview: My class will focus on improving students' reading, writing, speaking/listening and language abilities. My goal is always to support, inspire, and encourage your child to reach his or her full potential. At the end of the school year, your child should be able to meet the 9th Grade Kentucky Academic Standards.

Expectations:

1. **Respect:** Respect each other, personal property, space, and beliefs.
2. **Listen:** When others are talking, have open ears and a closed mouth.
3. **Learn:** Participate in class activities.
4. **Prepare:** Bring required materials to class and sit correctly in your seat.
5. **Enjoy:** Have a positive attitude.

Materials:

- 1 Subject Spiral Notebook
- 2 Pocket Folder
- Box of Tissues
- *To Kill A Mockingbird*
- Writing Utensil

Students are expected to keep a working notebook and folder. Their folder will contain their classwork and homework; their notebook will contain their class notes. Students are also expected to come to class prepared with a sharpened pencil or a pen. Unprepared students may write their names on the board for a pencil. **DO NOT** make this a habit! Please donate a box of tissues. We run through them quickly!

Policies:

1. **Chromebook:** Students' Chromebooks should be fully charged each day & used appropriately for classroom activities **ONLY**.
2. **Bell Ringers/Exit Slips:** The beginning and end of class every day will be designated for students to complete their bell ringers/exit slips on their Chromebooks. Absent students will receive the bell ringer/exit slip grade that they earned the day before for the day that they missed.
3. **Late Work:** I WILL assign homework! Homework is to be turned in by the due date. The potential point value of a late assignment will drop a letter grade for every day that it is late.
4. **Make Up Work:** If a student is absent, it is his or her responsibility to get make-up work from the class folder. Make up work must be completed in a timely manner (see BEHS handbook). Make up tests will be completed after school in my classroom. Absent students will have one week to stay after school to make it up.
5. **Organization:** Students should keep all work in their class folders. All classwork and homework will assist in preparing them for a cumulative final exam at the end of each semester.
6. **Academics:** Academic detention or lunch RTI will be assigned if a student is failing to turn their work in, sleeping in class, or failing the class. Failure to attend academic detention or lunch RTI will result in ISAP.
7. **Plagiarism:** **DON'T CHEAT!** Students will earn a zero for any assignment that is copied from another student, the internet, or any other source. Students will also earn a zero if they allow another student to copy their work.
8. **Bathroom:** Students will have 2 bathroom passes that they may use any time during the semester. They will receive 2 more bathroom passes next semester. Once their passes have been used, they may no longer take bathroom breaks during class time.
9. **Phone Use:** I do not allow phones to be out during class time under any circumstances. I have a designated safe place for students to store their phones every day. Students may use their Chromebooks for research, note taking, etc.
10. **Earbuds:** Students may listen to music during independent work, but earbuds should be put away at all other times.

Units of Study:

1. Introduction to Academic Writing / *To Kill A Mockingbird*
2. Rhetorical Skills and Controversial Speaking
3. *The Tragedy of Romeo and Juliet*
4. *The Odyssey* / Poetry

Google Classroom codes, Remind codes, and lesson plans are all available on my website.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Hi! My name is Ms. Smythe and I am your child's new English teacher. English proficiency is an essential tool for success across the span of all disciplines in high school and beyond. I am so thrilled to have the opportunity to teach your child reading, writing, speaking/listening and language skills! Let me share a little bit about myself with you.

I am an experienced educator both in and out of the classroom. Before I began teaching at Bullitt East High School, I worked as an educator at the Louisville Zoo, creating curriculum and instructing various age groups. Prior to that, I held several long-term substitute teacher positions within Jefferson County. I also worked as a private tutor. In terms of my education, I received my Bachelor of Arts in Humanities with a specialization in Literature and Music History in 2013 from the University of Louisville. I received my Masters of Arts in Teaching in 2015 from Bellarmine University. I am currently back in graduate school at the University of Louisville working towards a second Masters degree - this time in School Counseling and Guidance.

In my free time, I love enjoying the arts and humanities! When I was in high school, I was involved in choir, theatre, visual art and dance. I was also on the swim team. Extracurricular activities are so important for high school students. As one of the BEHS Headmasters of the freshman class, I will always promote my students' involvement in sports and clubs. I love learning about my students' many passions and talents!

In conclusion, I would like to inform you that my door is always open. Never hesitate to email me. My email address is listed below. No one knows your child better than you, so I hope to utilize your knowledge and experience to better reach each and every one of my students. I am looking forward to a successful and FUN 2018-2019 year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Smythe

Laura.Smythe@bullitt.kyschools.us