

2019-2020 English II with Mr. Fox

Welcome back, I'm delighted to be your instructor this year!

In this core curriculum course, students will learn the academic skills necessary to read and write at an appropriate level for their grade. Specifically, through in-class readings and skills-based assessments, students will develop the skills necessary to critically read a variety of literature, formulate arguments and analysis, and widen their educational horizons.

In order to develop their general literacy skills, students will **read texts of varying genre and style** to become familiar with formal language and conventions. To improve upon their reading skills, students will also work on weekly **vocabulary practices**, which are designed to improve recognition and acquisition of unfamiliar words as well as promote familiarity with standardized assessments. Finally, to promote writing practice and use the skills that they have developed, students will regularly be expected to **write out short responses, literary analyses, and informative essays** throughout the year.

In order to provide structure, the daily routine of English II is broadly as follows:

10min: *Bellwork* (Short Readings w/ Written Response; Vocabulary Practice)

30min: *Daily Reading* (Core Texts; Supplemental Readings; Professional Analysis)

Daily Activity (Reading Responses; Classroom Discussions; Even More Reading)

10min: *Student Debrief* (Returning to Main Ideas; Meeting Goals; and Exit Tickets)

Near the end of each school marking period, the regular weekly schedule will be suspended or altered in order to give all students time to research and write an appropriate essay form. The specific essay format is determined by the skills addressed through the most recent semester, and is an assessment of the student's developing skills throughout the year.

Student Goals through the Course:

- Skillfully read fiction and nonfiction texts appropriate for academic level
- Analyze, Summarize, and Cite information
- Develop and expand academic vocabulary (SAT vocabulary practice)
- Effectively write an Argumentative Essay across several artistic mediums
- Effectively write a Literary Analysis across several artistic mediums

General Classroom Rules

We adhere to school regulations as indicated by the Coleman Community Junior/Senior High School Handbook, with the following emphasis within the classroom:

- **Mutual Respect and Courtesy** - in an effective classroom, all are held to the highest standards of social conduct. *Treat others with respect, and respect will be returned.* Those students who have difficulties meeting this expectation will receive a verbal warning, but if the negative behavior continues, you may expect a call/email home as well as possible time in the Responsibility Center. For severe infractions, students will be required to be present during an emergency Parent-Teacher conference.
- **Cellular Device Restrictions** - please do not bring any cellular devices into the classroom. Emergency contacts can be reached at the Jr./Sr. High School Office.

The Impact of COVID-19 on the Classroom:

As you might imagine, due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, some of the usual classroom activities will be altered to promote the safety and wellness of our students and staff. Some things to think about when you return to the classroom:

- **Have Classroom Materials Prepared** - make sure that you have your own classroom materials, such as a pencil, an eraser, a notebook and a folder. Because we are trying to avoid personal contact with one another, you are not to share classroom material.
- **Have Personal Materials Prepared** - masks will be mandatory in the classroom, but we will also take opportunities to take "Mask Breaks", periods where we will step outside of the classroom to get a breath of fresh air - so please bring clothes suitable for being outside as well as a water bottle to keep hydrated. Water bottles are to be placed under your desk during class time, so as to avoid spilling or damage.
- **Maintaining Social Distancing** - while six feet is the optimal distance between people according to the CDC, this will prove difficult in a classroom setting. As such, do your best to avoid direct contact with those around you, and use your common sense when moving around the classroom.
- **Online Learning** - due to the possibility of our needing to return to distance learning through the year, we will all become versed in the use of Google Classroom, and some assignments and readings can be completed online rather than being done in-person.
- **Do Your Best** - Pandemic or not, my expectation of each student is to make an earnest effort to make the best of things both in and out of the classroom. In these imperfect and volatile times, we will grow and become better than what we were the day before.

Homework and Grading

- When classwork is assigned, it is expected that students will turn them in no later than the Friday of the current school week, unless otherwise instructed. Please make sure that homework is given directly to the instructor at the beginning of the class time. If homework is late, expect a 10% deduction from the final grade for each day it is late.
- The standard grading scale is used for this class.
- Exams are held in January and June during the school year, covering information from the previous semester. Semester grades are determined by averaging your two Marking Period grades and the Exam grade.

Independent Reading

- Learning is not confined to the classroom! Students will be expected to read in class, but they will also be expected to read at home whenever possible!
- In addition to the texts we will be reading in the classroom, students will also be required to read independent reading books throughout the year (age-appropriate novels longer than 200 pages in length) and complete short assignments based on these texts. More information on Independent Reading will be provided as the school year begins.

Contact Information

- Please email if you have any questions or concerns at afox@colemanschool.net.
- I will send monthly updates on student progress to parents via email.