

English 1 Honors

NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back To School!

Welcome, Students and Families!

I'm so excited to begin another school year with you! This six weeks, students will build foundational skills in reading, writing, and literary analysis while exploring their identities and learning to express themselves with clarity and confidence.

I will be sending home a newsletter each 6 weeks. This will also be posted in Google Classroom.

Important Dates

- First Day of School: Thursday, August 14
- Holiday: Monday, September 1 (Labor Day)
- Unit Test: Friday, August 29 (Unusual Normality)
- Essay Due: Tuesday, September 9
- CBA #1: Monday, September 15
- Romeo & Juliet Begins: Week of September 16



What We're Learning

Week 1: Getting Started

Students will review the course syllabus, join Google Classroom, and participate in fun community-building activities like Six-Word Memoirs and "Whodunit?" They'll also complete The Letter Project, an introduction to tell me more about themselves.

Weeks 2-3: Skills Development

We'll dive into vocabulary (connotation vs. denotation), inference, synthesis, and author's purpose. Students will work with passages like "Old Ironsides" and tackle collaborative challenges such as solving a "murder mystery" using inference.

Weeks 4-5: Memoir Study – Unusual Normality

This moving personal essay by Ishmael Beah helps students analyze theme, tone, central idea, and figurative language. They'll complete a test and write a short constructed response (SCR) using textual evidence.

Week 6: Essay Writing + CBA

Students will draft, revise, and peer-review an essay. Then, they'll complete their first Curriculum-Based Assessment to check their understanding of key reading and writing skills.



Grades This Six Weeks

Minor Grades:

- Syllabus Scavenger Hunt
- Summer Reading Project
- Vocabulary + Inference Activities
- STAAR Practice Questions
- Check Your Knowledge Quizzes
- Essay Outline + Peer Review
- SCR Response
- CBA #1

Major Grades:

- Summer Project Test
- Unusual Normality Test
- Final Expository Essay



Ascender
Parent
Portal



What's Next: Shakespeare!

- We'll close the six weeks by jumping into Romeo and Juliet. Students will explore the historical context, literary elements, and character development in this classic tragedy.



REMINDERS FOR PARENTS

- ✓ Please sign and return the syllabus by Friday, August 15
- ✓ Check Ascender regularly for grades and feedback
- ✓ Encourage your student to read and review their notes nightly

Contact Me!

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