August 21, 2014

Dear Students and Parents,

 Welcome to my class! I’m looking forward to an engaging and enriching year and am honored to be involved in these exciting times in your lives. What follows is all (or most of) the pertinent information for my class. For a look at my extended syllabus, please see “Class Polices” on JupiterGrades (@ jupitergrades.com). If, between the two resources, I’ve left anything unanswered please do not hesitate to contact me at tmehew@wusd.org,

* **JupiterGrades** I Plan on using JupiterGrades as the platform for the class. As a student or parent, it will be your greatest ally. I’ll be updating the calendar regularly with assignments and you’ll find print and web-based resources, selected media, and anything else relevant to the class on the dashboard. Assignments will be hyperlinked to the due date on the calendar. We will also be using the discussion forum to continue class discussions outside of class, submitting written work, and taking quizzes via JupiterGrades, so I suggest becoming familiar with the site. Last but not least, I will be updating the gradebook regularly so please be sure to check it often to make sure you are current. For those of you not familiar with JupiterGrades, Mr. Ganzler has volunteered to send home the login information within the next couple weeks. As this is a new program for me as well, please allow a couple of weeks for me to get everything fine-tuned.
* **Grading Weights**
	+ Homework 15%
	+ Classwork 20%
	+ Quizzes 10%
	+ Participation 20%

(Do Nows, presentations, etc)

* + Essays/Responses 25%
	+ Final Exam 10%
* **Required Materials**
* A student planner
* A class folder dedicated to English/Language Arts **OR** a section of a larger binder. The folder will be used to hold “Do-Nows”, handouts (resources), notes, current assignments, and completed assignments.
* Writing materials: Binder Paper, Pens, and Pencils.
* Independent Reading Book (Grade level appropriate. See suggested reading list on JupiterGrades)
* USB Flash Drive
* Students will be required to bring copies of class reading material (i.e. class novel) to class everyday
* **Attendance/Late Work Policies**

Students will be held accountable for all class notes and general information given during the time of their absences. Late work will **NOT** receive full credit without an excused absence. **Late assignments are deducted 15%** Late Project or paper with due dates scheduled in advance may not receive full credit **even with an excused absence**.

**Please sign and return with student.**

**I (We) the parent(s) / guardian(s) of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ have read and reviewed, with my (our) student, the course syllabus for the 2014-2015 school year.**

**Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**In Addition:**

**\_\_\_\_Please check here if you (and your student) have access to a computer with internet at home**

**\_\_\_\_Please check here if you regularly (or plan to) check Jupiter**

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