Ms. Bowker

Back to School “Night”
2020/2021 School Year
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Welcome Back

Hi! This Fall 2020 Semester I am teaching:
2nd Period → English IV
3rd Period → Honors English IV
4th Period → Honors English II

Additionally, I am a co-adviser for the QACHI\$ chapter of the National Honor Society.
A Note About Distance/Virtual Learning

Attendance and Participation are CRUCIAL to success in the virtual classroom. If a student is not logging into Schoology, completing work, or asking questions, I have NO WAY of knowing what is going on with that student or WHY work is not being completed. Please stay in touch and open to communication throughout the semester!

Additionally, with distractions like internet connection, extraneous computer tabs/windows, phones, television, other family members, pets, etc. it is easier than ever to fall behind! Because of this, it extra-important that teachers, parents, and students work together to make sure each individual is getting the help he/she needs.

Thanks for your understanding and your help in the coming semester!
Office Hours

When?
Teacher office hours are marked on the Distance Learning Schedule and vary for each class based on that schedule! Generally speaking, office hours are from 8-10:15 AM and 2-3:30 PM on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday.

Please feel free to email if you have questions or would like to set-up a virtual meeting.

What?
The purpose of office hours:
- One on one or small group reteaching/additional help
- Student or Parent conferences
- Check-ins
Course Descriptions

**English IV** → English IV is a required course for graduation and provides the student with a thematic survey of British literature, language, and history from Anglo-Saxon times to the present. The course is designed to continue developing the student’s ability to evaluate the content, organization, and language of texts and to communicate effectively. To this end, the course will provide students with opportunities to examine the features of language while responding to a variety of literary genres, by utilizing the content standards of listening, speaking, reading, writing, and viewing.

**English II** → English II is a required course for graduation. It builds upon and reinforces the skills acquired in English I, including genre study, critical reading, language usage and conventions, and effective writing. Additional emphasis is placed upon research skills and oral communication. The skills and knowledge attained will prepare students for successful completion of the statewide standardized assessment (MCAP).
The Honors English program is designed for students who are self-initiating and highly motivated. It builds upon the successes of earlier experiences with language and stimulates bright and creative minds to explore their potential. The program aims to meet the needs of students whose goals are to go beyond the foundational surveys of the discipline by delving into the complexities of communication through supplemental readings, writings, and activities that develop deep understanding. The program strengthens honors students’ cognizance of the richness of language and literature.
Course Outcomes

1. Use and develop effective English language skills (written and oral) for a variety of audiences and purposes
2. Use and develop a variety of reading, writing, and listening strategies
3. Explore and closely analyze a variety of literary genres
4. Use traditional and emerging media in order to stimulate and develop critical thinking, generate and communicate ideas, and gather and analyze information
5. Develop vocabulary, note-taking, and organizational skills
Syllabi

The school will send out a Google Form to parents/guardians asking them to virtually sign off on their student’s teachers’ syllabi. It’s not a perfect system, but better than attempting to track down mailed paperwork, or sending multiple google forms for virtual signoff.

**Each syllabus contains more specific information for each class, including course Outlines! Additionally, each Syllabus can be accessed as a PDF from my Teacher Webpage!**
Attendance

- In order to be marked PRESENT for each class, each day, students must login to Schoology for each class, each day, and complete any work assigned for that day.
- Students should contact their teachers AND guardians should contact the front office if a student must miss a class, or a full day of classes, in order to ensure that the missed instruction is marked as an excused absence.
- Students are responsible for making up any and all work missed due to an excused absence in order to receive credit for that work.
- All make up work must be completed by the established deadline or other arrangements must be made with the teacher.
Late Work

- Each assignment will have a DUE DATE and a DEADLINE; after the deadline, late work will NOT be accepted.
- Students will have THREE days from the assigned due date to submit work late; each day after that, the assignment will be docked 10% off the final score.
- In extenuating circumstances, please work with the teacher directly.
Determining Grades

Breakdown of Calculation

Mastery Assessments ➞ 50%
- 3 to 4 Essays, Discussions, Projects, Tests/Exams, Quizzes; Any assignment that shows MASTERY over a topic/unit.

Progress Assessments ➞ 50%
- Daily Work, Reading Comprehension, Participation

Policy

Due to the shift to virtual learning for the Fall semester, the high school grading policy has been adjusted in order to provide students a better method to demonstrate their mastery of the content. The previously utilized Final Exam category has been incorporated into the Mastery Assessment category in order to better align with online learning.

**Students will take a Pre-Assessment, Midterm, and Final Exam!**
Revision Policy

- Students will be allowed to retake or revise mastery assessments (except for the Midterm or Final Exam) within 10 days of the date returned in order to earn a higher grade.
- Students may revise a mastery assessment as many times as he/she would like in order to earn a better grade.
- There is NO cap on how high a grade a student can earn through revisions (there are some exceptions such as on-demand/in-class essay or points revoked due to late submission).
- Revisions are the responsibility of the student; I will never tell a student to redo a mastery assessment -- IT IS A CHOICE.
- Students must schedule an after school conference with me in order to rewrite/revise a mastery paper.
Academic Dishonesty

- All students at Queen Anne’s County High School are expected to conduct themselves with great pride in academics and the community at large.
- Work must be completed individually unless otherwise directed by the teacher.
- In our virtual learning environment, student work may only include the electronic resources provided or recommended by the teacher. Submitting work copied from non-approved electronic resources such as an online essay writing site is still considered plagiarism.
- Plagiarism (the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own) is a severe offense at QACHS and will result in immediate consequences, such as:
  - Parent Contact by email or phone
  - Detention or Referral (depending on the severity of plagiarism or assignment)
  - Immediate Zero on the Assignment (Possible “redo” of the assignment for partial credit is at the discretion of the instructor)
  - Conference with the Academic Dean