



September 3, 2019

Dear Students and Parents,

Hello! I hope that everyone had a relaxing summer and is ready to jump back into school full swing! The start of a new school year is a great time to make a fresh start and think about goals for the rest of the year.

I am extremely excited for this year! I have been a teacher for the past twelve years in the Braintree and Weymouth public school systems and I'm thrilled to be joining the crew here at Hull High School. My hope is that we will all learn and grow together this year so that you will meet success in the eleventh grade. This year promises to be one of growth and change for all students and I feel privileged to be a part of this unique process.

Attached you will find a syllabus for my English class. It covers grading, classroom expectations, and a glimpse of what we will be learning this year. I hope this information will be helpful as everyone becomes acclimated to the tenth grade. Tonight's assignment is simply to familiarize yourself with our class syllabus. I ask that both students and parents sign at the end so that I know everyone has read and understood what to expect from the coming school year.

Please do not hesitate to write down any questions you have on the last page and we will discuss them in class. Parents, feel free to send me a note or email or call me at school with any questions or concerns you may have moving forward.

I am truly looking forward to this year! Happy reading!

Sincerely,

Mr. Dane Grigas

dgrigas@town.hull.ma.us

781-925-3000 x3131

Mr. Grigas' Classroom Expectations

1. Treat Others with Respect and the Way You Wish to be Treated

Students and teachers are never to tease or mock each other for their appearance, weight, height, beliefs, clothing, hobbies, likes and dislikes, preferences, academic abilities, academic performance, dreams, goals, friendships, families or any other topic. This means, in this classroom there are no put downs, no bullying, or any other remarks or actions that may hurt someone. Phrases such as “just kidding” or “no offense” are not excuses to put down another person. Students are expected to treat each other, the faculty, staff, and administration, as well as any parent volunteers, guests, or substitute teachers with respect.

2. Come to Class Prepared to Learn

Please come to class on time with any materials you need for class including your homework, something to write with, your journal, and any book we happen to be reading. Once we begin class you will not be allowed to leave to get materials from your locker. I'd rather you be a couple minutes late to class than have to get up in the middle of class to get something. At the end of class, please stay seated until the bell rings.

3. Always Do Your Personal Best

You should put your best effort into each assignment, activity and relationship. I hold myself to these standards as a teacher as well. While I don't expect you to be perfect, I ask that you set reasonable, yet challenging goals for yourself this year. Your goals should be based on past experiences, future goals and innate abilities. Always be in a growth mindset.

4. Be Truthful

Being truthful does not only mean not lying, but also being upfront, free from deceit, and not leaving out information, misleading others, or misrepresenting the situation at hand. I would much rather you tell me the truth than try to cover up a potential problem.

5. Don't be Afraid to Ask Questions

Please always feel free to contribute a question or comment to our class discussions. Please raise your hand instead of talking out. Never be afraid to ask a question if you don't know something or need clarification. Similarly, please feel comfortable sharing any concerns or issues you're facing in school with me. Just find an appropriate time to come and talk.

English 10 Classroom Policies

What Supplies Do I Need For The School Year?

- One 1 or 1½ inch 3-ring binder with the following tabs:
Literature
Vocabulary and Grammar
Tests and Quizzes
Writing

Please clearly label your binder with your name, English 10 and the block letter.
Some extra filler paper could be helpful for you for note taking as well, but is not required.

- One composition notebook for journaling, clearly labeled.
(I have some extra binders and notebooks if you're having trouble getting one!)

Grading

Journal Entries	15%
Homework	15%
Classwork and Participation	20%
Quizzes / Open Responses / Short Writing	20%
Tests / Essays / Creative Projects	30%

Discipline

I expect my students to follow the code of conduct set forth in the student handbook and listed on my classroom expectations. If they stray from these guidelines, I will first give them a verbal reminder. If the behavior persists, I will give a second individual reminder. Further violations will result in a detention to be served within one week. Any further disruptions and I will remove the student from class to face further disciplinary action.

Classwork Policy

All work aims to teach concepts and skills, meet educational curriculum standards and fulfill an ultimate goal. Class lectures and discussions are meant not only to give information, but also to develop high level thinking, note-taking, conversation, reasoning, and listening abilities. Please complete all classwork in class. Any classwork you do not complete or miss due to absence may be assigned as homework.

Homework Policy

Homework helps students review skills, concepts and information learned in the classroom as well develop time management skills, problem solving, and planning skills. Homework also serves to help both the student and the teacher make sure the information being taught is understood. Completion of homework is directly linked to test grades and one's ability to participate in class.

While I believe homework to be a great learning tool, I don't want students staying up all night and missing out on valuable family time. I will keep regular homework to a reasonable amount each night, but please understand that each child works at a different pace.

Homework will be graded on a scale of five points. A score of five points means that the assignment is complete and well done. Three points means the work was incomplete or not completed up to expectations. A zero means that the work was not handed in or done at all.

As a student in English 10, you are responsible for your own agenda. Please bring your assignment notebook to class. I will give ample time before and after lessons for you to write down assignments.

Journals

We will be journaling frequently in class this year. At the end of each term, I will grade your journal entries for **completeness, quality, and length**. Please make up the entries you miss due to absence. Check the journal assignment logbook at the front of the class or free write to make up the entries.

Writing Assignments and Creative Projects

Along with a test for each unit we will be studying, I will also assign a writing assignment, as well as a creative project. These test grades will balance each other out over the course of the term. Creative projects and writing assignments will always be accompanied with a grading rubric that will help you better understand how well you met the expectations of the assignment.

Absences and Make-up Work

If you are absent, it is your responsibility to make up any work you've missed. Please request any make-up work for unexpected absences once you return to school. Please also request work for anticipated absences ahead of time if possible.

You will have two days to complete any assignments you missed upon their return to school. Please try your best to submit work promptly, but please let me know if you feel you will need more time to complete an assignment and I will try to work with you.

If you are absent on a test day, please see me when you return to schedule a time to make it up. Tests must be made up within one week of returning to school. If you are absent the day before a test or quiz, you are still responsible for taking the test or quiz the day you return to school.

I will always keep extra copies of all assignments and handouts in the room. Please pick up any papers you may need.

Late Policy and No-Name Papers

Late homework will be accepted for half credit until the end of the term. After that, late homework will not be accepted. Late projects and essays will lose 5 points per day up to 50% off. Any paper with no name on it will not be graded and will be counted as late.

Cheating and Plagiarism

Anyone caught cheating or copying other people's work will be given a zero for the assignment. In addition, anyone helping someone to cheat or actively allowing someone to copy their paper will also receive a zero on that assignment.

Students who turn in essays or work that is not their own will receive a zero on that assignment.

Leaving the Room

Only one person may leave the room at a time. Please sign out when you leave and write where you are going. This is for safety reasons, so I can know where everyone is at all times.

English 10 Course Description

Literature is a window into human nature and language is how that nature is expressed, thus the study of these areas is crucial for mental and emotional development as students seek to know themselves and their world better through their studies. The English program at Hull High School follows the Massachusetts State Frameworks. It focuses on mastery of the English language through reading and critically analyzing novels, short stories, poetry, plays and other various texts, as well as writing as it applies to life and literature.

In conjunction with reading, the writing component will emphasize process, development and practice of various writing modes such as persuasive, expository, descriptive and narrative writing. Grammar, punctuation, and usage skills are integrated into writing instruction with particular attention given to revision and editing. Vocabulary will also be emphasized both within the context of the readings and through vocabulary lessons and practice.

We will read *Of Mice and Men*, *Catcher in the Rye*, *Lord of the Flies*, and *Macbeth* this year, and may also read *The Secret Life of Bees*, *The Things They Carried*, *A Separate Peace*, *A Doll's House*, as well as some short stories. I look forward to reading and discussing these classic stories together.

Acknowledgement

I have read Mr. Grigas' syllabus and have written down any questions I have about its contents. I understand that I am accountable for the information in this handbook throughout the 2019 – 2020 school year.

Student Name (print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Parent E-mail: _____

- ☐ I have access to a computer, internet and printer at home.
- ☐ I **do not** have access to a computer, internet and printer at home.

Questions, Comments, or Concerns:

*** Please return to Mr. Grigas no later than Thursday, September 5th, 2019 ***