



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 Strategies for Learning class. It covers grading, classroom expectations, and a glimpse of what we will be working on 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.

Parents and Guardians should feel free to check Aspen regularly to monitor your child's academic progress and to ensure that they are completing all assignments. Please do not hesitate to write down any questions you have on the last page and we will discuss them in the coming days. Parents feel free to send me a note or e-mail 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.

Strategies for Learning

Course Description

Welcome to Strategies for Learning! The goal of this course is to give you time to work on assignments that you are assigned and help you to improve your study skills, self-advocacy and time management and organization. I am here to help in any way possible, but you will also be responsible to put in effort in order to be successful as well. We will also be completing some self-analysis surveys.

Grading

Strategies for Learning is a graded course. There will be weekly timesheets that will be collected at the end of each week. You will need to log the tasks and assignments you complete each day in class.

In addition to your timesheet, there will be a weekly effort and participation grade. This will be based on completed work that you show me at the end of each period. You will earn points for your participation and positive conduct.

You will also need to hand in a progress report filled in by your teacher periodically.

We will be using Google Classroom for certain assignments and announcements.

Behavior Expectations

Strategies for Learning is meant to be a time where students can concentrate and work on their assignments and study for upcoming tests and quizzes. It should be quiet so that other students can concentrate and stay focused on their work for the whole period. There may be times when students help each other, but the majority will be individual work. Phones and earbuds should not be used in class.

Please make sure to respect your classmates by listening while they are speaking, providing support when possible and being kind. Raise your hand and participate appropriately. We will be most successful as a class when we choose to honor and respect each other.

Please make sure to leave the classroom how it was found (desk arrangements and returning any materials that were used) and keep the classroom organized and clean.

Discipline

I expect my students to follow the code of conduct set forth in the student handbook and listed on my classroom expectations. I will 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 I will remove the student from class to face further disciplinary action.

Leaving the Room

There should only be one person out of the classroom. 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.

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 ***