Mrs. King’s English Classes

Dear Parent(s) and Student:

English classes are designed to introduce students to reading, writing, and thinking tasks. At the heart of my educational philosophy, is the concept of writing-to-think. It’s an educational approach which requires students to read closely and view or listen to a variety of media and then respond to it in writing. My intent is to help students appreciate their culture by valuing literature as a means to understanding themselves and others. They will be required to consider the complexities of their own ideas. For the most part, students will be asked to think analytically and creatively. I’m not looking for a right or wrong answer. That is for the student to determine. My hope is that students will explore their questions and find answers to them through study and reflection. Whether or not students agree or disagree with a particular author, they will be required to support their claims in writing, defending their position with specific cited evidence from the text.

Each quarter, every student is required to read a book for homework, which will have a connection that is appropriate for the learning going on in the classroom. Students will have the opportunity to read during free time, but will need to read at home as well to complete the reading each quarter. Encourage your child to set aside some time each night to read in a quiet, undisturbed place in your home.

English is a core subject. Successful completion of the course is imperative to qualify for graduation. Attendance is an important consideration because students will receive points for activities and discussions during class time. Missed in-class activities and discussions **cannot be made up.** Daily preparation is an *opportunity earned*. There is no way to determine a student’s attitude, citizenship, or the extent of his/her preparation, if they are not in class to participate. To do well, students should come prepared to class with their materials and ready to work. If a student is absent it is his/her responsibility to get the assignment from the class recorder and turn it in within the time permitted. If this is not done, the student will receive a zero for the missing assignment.

Grades are based on *points earned*. The categories are as follows:

Classwork (daily activities and participation) 30%

Journaling (objectives and discoveries) 10%

Homework (practice improves skill level) 10%

Essays (transfer of knowledge) 30%

Assessments (Show me your strengths) 20%

“In the student-scholar model, individual students not only **accept** **responsibility** for their own learning, but for **contributing to the quality** of the class,” (Ritchie J. Bonner, educator and author at Brigham Young University, Aug. 1996). Student-scholars have inquisitive minds, which leads them to ask questions. They have the ability to focus attention on the here and now. They have the ability to organize and evaluate information. Student-scholars have a willingness to discover connections and relationships from their personal lives to the world-at-large and are ready to share those insights. They are willing to accept their limitations and adopt new strategies for thinking and knowing. They will discipline themselves to practice new skills until those skills become second nature.

Parents are students’ first teachers. I count it a privilege to collaborate with you in the education of your child. If you have any questions or special concerns, please contact me. I may be reached at Clark County High School from 7:30-8:00 a.m., 3:45-4:15 (374-5215), or you may email me: kings@mudlake.net. I am looking forward to a wonderful semester.

Sincerely yours,