WELCOME BACK, ROCHESTER ROCKETS!
One of the purposes of this class is to assist students in developing independent study habits, including learning time management, taking responsibility for work, and completing assignments with 100% effort. For my part, I will encourage you, and I will help you learn the material. Do not hesitate to ask questions in class when the entire group can learn from your question. You may also contact me by email or speak to me in person before or after school. This is helpful if a special circumstance arises. Above all, I want you to succeed, but keep in mind that you must participate in your own success. You will do so only if you apply yourself. Follow the class rules, the syllabus, and the homework policy, and you will have a terrific year!

“Always do right; this will gratify some people and astonish the rest.”
Mark Twain (1835-1910)

Sincerely,
Ms. Starr

Course Overview:
This course will continue to develop students’ appreciation for various genres of literature while emphasizing composition. It is designed to expand students’ writing abilities and research skills while also improving students’ grammatical skills and vocabulary. Students will also practice speaking, listening, and higher order thinking skills. We will study the authors of literature, historical documents, short stories, poems, and novels.

Goals:
1. To develop a writing style that exhibits a unified coherent structure while adhering to grammar rules, and then begin building a personal portfolio with these writings.
2. To build on knowledge of grammar technique and usage.
3. To create an understanding of literature through critical analysis.
4. To write unified, developed, coherent essays that show depth in understanding for the literature read.
5. To expand and adapt vocabulary for audience and everyday use.
6. To practice and develop listening, speaking, and study skills.
7. To utilize various forms of technology for educational purposes.

Resources

Texts/Supplemental Materials:
- Prentice Hall Platinum (1999) Sophomore English 224 classroom literature textbook
- Staying Fat for Sarah Byrnes - Chris Crutcher
- To Kill a Mockingbird - Harper Lee
- The Tragedy of Julius Caesar – William Shakespeare (in literature book)
- The Old Man and the Sea – Ernest Hemingway
- Various films throughout year (A&E Biographies of authors, The Tragedy of Julius Caesar, To Kill a Mockingbird, The Old Man and the Sea)

Materials Needed Daily:
- Spiral notebook with pockets or three-ring binder with pockets for keeping notes and handouts
- Loose-leaf paper
- Pens/pencils/highlighters
- Student agenda/planner/calendar
- Portfolio (a two-pocket folder to be kept in the classroom)
English 224 Rules & Policies

Rules & Citizenship Expectations:

Students have a personal responsibility for their own work, their own behavior, and their own interactions with others. This requires three things: RESPECT, COOPERATION, and HONESTY. Students are expected to exhibit these qualities while in English class.

The most important classroom policy is RESPECT:

* Respect Ms. Starr's right to teach: remain quiet, raise your hand to ask a question or contribute a comment, stay in your seat, the teacher will dismiss the class (not the bell)
* Respect your fellow classmates' right to learn: do NOT prevent other students from learning by being disruptive

1. Follow all rules in the Rochester High School student handbook in addition to Ms. Starr’s classroom rules.
2. Be in your assigned seat and prepared to work when the final bell rings, otherwise you will be marked late. (This means have your supplies when class begins, and do not ask for a pass to your locker to obtain forgotten materials or to use the restroom). Bring your book, paper/notebook, homework due that day, and a writing utensil. Failure to bring materials to class will result in a warning; subsequent offenses will result in discipline referrals.
3. Stay in your seat until the bell rings. Do not line up at the door.
4. Be courteous to your teacher and your classmates. Refrain from talking or being disruptive. No arguing in class. Concerns and/or appeals must be discussed with teacher privately before/after class.
5. Respect the rights and property of others. Respect school property & materials such as lockers, books, computers, desks, and chairs. Help keep this room and other areas of the school neat and tidy.
6. Mobile Devices: Students may only use a mobile device when given permission by the instructor. A violation of this privilege will result in the device being confiscated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consequences:</th>
<th>Policy for Severe Behavior:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Verbal warning from teacher</td>
<td>- Severely disruptive behavior such as repeated disruptions, fighting, cursing, physical assault, or verbal abuse will result in immediate referral to the principal or assistant principal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Referral to Mrs. Poole, the assistant principal, contact parents</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Referral to the assistant principal, contact parents, school detention</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Homework - - - Late Homework - - - Make-up Homework - - - Policy & Expectations:

1. Work MUST be free of plagiarism (from books, Internet, other students, etc.). Cheating or copying from another student is absolutely unacceptable and will result in immediate action: Both students will receive a zero, a referral, and a call to parents.

2. Unless otherwise indicated, ALL work must be completed neatly on loose leaf paper (or remove the edges of spiral-bound notebook paper). Label your paper in the upper right hand corner above the line. Label must include first & last name, date, class and section (A3). I will collect it, or I will ask you to place it in the basket for your class located in the back of the classroom.

3. You must complete ALL assignments with effort (Answers are written in complete sentences with thought and substance), and you must submit them when they are DUE. The majority of your grade is based on daily homework. Therefore, accumulated zeros in the grade book will result, inevitably, in a failing grade. Be careful!

4. You are allowed 3 LATE grade passes per quarter, but you may only use late grades on a daily homework assignment such as a worksheet. You must use your signed LATE SLIPS provided by me, attach them to the late work, and hand the late work to ME directly (not the basket). Students turning in major writing assignments (essays/research paper), projects (poster/diorama/diary), or major online work (Prezi/PPT/anything web-based), will lose 10% of the total possible grade per day for every day (A or B) it is late. Students giving late speeches will lose 10% per every class day. Homework is missing and late if you do not have it at the beginning of class and when it is due. The late homework must be turned in the next day you have class with me. No points will be deducted for the assignment. However, subsequent missing homework (4th + assignment) will not be accepted unless you discuss a special circumstance with me.

5. Students are solely responsible for collecting and completing make-up work from absences! I prefer you see me before or after school the day you return. Try to avoid taking time out of class to discuss missing work. This means if you are absent, then it’s your responsibility to get missed work:
   a. If you are absent on an ‘A’ day and present on a ‘B’ day, then you should be ready to take any tests or quizzes on the next ‘A’ day.
   b. All missed work should be picked up and turned in the amount of days later that you were absent (ex: If you are absent for 3 classes, then you have 3 classes to submit your missed work).

6. Students (and their parents) are responsible for tracking their own grades. Check the online gradebook frequently, and see me before or after school with questions or concerns. Email is another great option for contacting me regarding your grades.

7. Ms. Starr's Class on the Web - Daily homework assignments, helpful handouts, Power Point slideshows, audio files, research links, and directions for major projects students will complete in this class are available on the Internet at this URL (web address): http://sites.rochester3a.net/ms-starr/

* EXTRA CREDIT – occasionally I will offer a chance for some extra points. Take advantage of these bonus points as they can help you throughout the grading period. 😊

Evaluation:

Student work will be graded on a point system and given a letter grade based on the grading scale in the RHS student handbook. Students’ grades will be come from class participation! Students will take notes daily, participate in class discussions, complete daily homework assignments/worksheets, write essays, take quizzes and tests, make projects, and recite oral reports.

Rochester high school grading scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94%-100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>86%-93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>76%-85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>70%-75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0%-69%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Students and Parents will read and sign the form indicating they have read and understand all rules and policies of Ms. Starr’s class.
**Students and Parents please read and sign below:**

My signature on this form indicates that I understand Ms. Starr’s classroom policies on attendance, tardiness, behavior, preparedness, citizenship, homework, grading, and late work. I understand the rules and my responsibilities as a student. I will do my best to follow these rules and expectations. If I have any questions or concerns, I will speak to you before it becomes a problem that might impede my learning or impact my grade.

Print Student Name_________________________ Parent Signature________________________ Date________________________

My signature on this form indicates that I understand Ms. Starr’s classroom policies and have discussed them with my student.

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