

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Hello, and welcome to 9th grade English at West Mecklenburg High School! I am very excited about working with you and your child for the 2013-2014 school year. I know we will have a successful and productive year in room 815. It is my goal to provide all students with an educationally challenging, yet fun, experience in my classroom. I have high expectations for your child and I will do all that I can to help your child achieve those expectations.

West Meck abides by a strict attendance policy. Any student who misses **more than ten days** of a given class will **fail** the class, regardless of the student’s grade. If a student does miss more than ten days, he or she must complete recovery hours by attending extended day tutorials. Please make sure that your student completes recovery if needed!

Grades for each marking period will be based on quizzes, tests, projects, essays, journals, homework, and class participation/behavior. I have informed students that it is expected that they keep a record of their grades so that you are always aware of their standing, and never surprised by the grade for the marking period. I will give out progress reports every three weeks. Students are aware that Iwould likethese to be signed by a parent/guardian and turned back in the next day. Parents can access their students’ grades with a password (assigned by a guidance counselor). The link is on the West Mecklenburg Website. Forms can be picked up from the guidance office. For more information, please contact a guidance counselor. It is highly recommended that parents check their students’ grades on a regular basis.

**Grading scale:**

**Grading Policy:**

Tests and Quizzes 75%

Classwork 15%

Homework 10%

93-100%               A

85-92%                 B

78-84%                 C

70-77%                 D

69% or lower     F

In order for your child to be successful in the class he/she will need to bring the following items on a daily basis:

* A composition notebook (100 pages, can be found at Wal-Mart for .50)
* a blue or black ink pen
* a pencil
* a highlighter
* a dictionary for at-home use for vocabulary

*\*\*The composition notebook will be used on a daily basis and it is imperative that your student brings it to class. There will be frequent notebook checks throughout the semester/year.*

Please take a moment to review and fill out the *Student Information Sheet*. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, feel free to contact me (listed below). Also, I would like you to be aware of a program called *Reminder 101*. This allows me to send the whole class a ‘text message’ to remind them of things and make suggestions of material to study. When using this program students cannot ‘text message’ back, but they can always e-mail. I encourage you to join your child’s class, the information is listed below. This technology will allow you to be informed of what is taking place within the classroom on a day to day basis.

**Block 1**: Text Message the phone number 424-888-7071 with the message of @block113

**Block 2**: Text Message the phone number 424-888-7071 with the message of @block21

**Block 4**: Text Message the phone number 424-888-7071 with the message of @block 413

**E-mail**: [abbym.chidester@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:abbym.chidester@cms.k12.nc.us)

I thank you in advance for your cooperation this school year!

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Chidester*