

Welcome to 7th Grade English!

My name is Ms. Bass and I'm so excited to be the new 7th grade English teacher at Terrace Middle School. I graduated with Honors from Cal State Monterey with a degree in Communications and a double concentration in Rhetorical Studies and Creative Writing. After obtaining my B.A., I went on to get my Masters in Writing with a focus on Book Publishing from Portland State University.

Below I've included a write-up of what to expect in my class for the upcoming year. We have a lot to cover, but I believe every student is equally capable of growing and learning as long as we persevere and put in the effort to succeed.

Parents, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [**ebass@lakeport.k12.ca.us**](mailto:ebass@lakeport.k12.ca.us) or through the school.

Class Description

The goal of this class is to develop our skills as critical thinkers, readers, writers, speakers, and listeners, done in compliance with state guidelines. The development of these skills is important both for advancement in this class as well as for achieving success in other school subjects, relationship-building, and for reaching future career goals. Learning proper communication skills is vital to students' growth as young adults. To help develop these skills, we will read a variety of texts which we will then do close readings on in order to better understand them. We will also complete a variety of writing assignments and vocabulary-building exercises.

Supplies List

- Highlighters and colored pens (three different colors, *not* dark blue or black)
- 2 Composition notebooks
- Binder paper
- A personal reading book

Grades

Students' grades are available to check online through Aeries. Grading in this class will be broken down as follows:

Homework: 5%

Quizzes: 10%

Tests: 20%

Classwork: 25%

Essays & Presentations: 40%

Extra credit is available. Details are available in the following section.

Types of Work to Expect

In Class Assignments: In class we will be doing work to build vocabulary, spelling, writing, and literary analysis skills. Class-time will comprise of discussions of the reading, preparing for and starting on upcoming projects.

Homework Assignments: Homework assignments will primarily be reading assignments to prepare for the next day's class or will be leftover classwork that was unfinished during the class period. At times, it will be to further students' understanding of the subject we studied that day in class.

Quizzes & Tests: Quizzes will focus on vocabulary and spelling. Tests will be a mix of vocabulary, reading comprehension, and short essays.

Projects & Presentations: As this is a class focusing on writing skills, grades are highly dependent on project and presentation quality. Each essay will be 500–700 words each and is expected to be properly formatted according to class guidelines. Types of essays will include: Persuasive, fictional narrative, literary analysis, research, and book summary.

Extra Credit: Students may complete a maximum of two short book reports (approximately 350 words) for extra credit per year. The book reports should be based on a book they read on their own **not a book covered in class**. Students must notify me if they plan to complete an extra credit assignment so we can further discuss the guidelines.

Reading

All students are expected to have completed the assigned homework readings prior to class time. Students must also bring a reading book to school for independent reading time. Students will have the opportunity to check a book out from the school library or from my classroom library.

In the Case of an Absence

A student has two extra days to turn in work assigned on a day a student was absent. If a quiz was administered on a day a student was absent, the quiz must be made up on the first day the student returns. If homework was due on the day of the absence, that homework is due on the first day the student returns otherwise it is considered late and will only receive 70% credit.

Late Assignments & No-Name Assignments

Work not completed and turned in by the assigned due date is considered late. If a student is absent on the date work is due, the assignment is due the first day the student returns to school. Completed late work will only receive partial (70%) credit. Incomplete late work receives a score of zero.

Assignments without a name in the top corner of their page will be put into a “No-Name” stack. Students are able to look through the stack to see if their homework was put into the stack and turn it into me for 90% credit as long as it was marked as being turned in on time. On the last Friday of each month, any paper still in the stack will be thrown out.

Class Rules:

1. Be in your seat with all materials ready when class starts.
2. Show respect for everyone in class
3. Clean up after yourself

Food Policy

Please do not bring treats to the room. The district has a strict wellness policy. I cannot risk the health of other students who have food allergies, and I would hate to have to send my students away over it. Thank you for understanding.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____