August 2023 Pre- AP English 1 – **Reading Language Arts**

**HELLO TIGER FAMILY!**  with Ms. Limas, Room 305

**Welcome to campus and a new school year.** If you’re like me, we have the task of adjusting to more structure than we had during our summer vacation days. Complaining is a natural way to display disappointment, disgust, or discomfort for what we are asked to do, but may I suggest we think about the bigger picture: What will doing this task accomplish? If I don’t do this task, what are the consequences?

**There are 5 classroom behavior expectations that need to be met for the purpose of learning and safety**.

1) Treat others like you want to be treated or better.

2) Respect that others are trying to listen and learn.

3) Earn the grade you want in the class through actions – being prepared, asking questions, listening to and reading instructions, turning in work on time, attending tutoring, and taking advantage of extra credit when available.

4) Honor district, campus, classroom, and personal boundaries – know what is acceptable and what is not.

5) Don’t abuse the privilege of a hall pass.

\* Students will have an opportunity to discuss a breakdown of each of the expectations.

**If these expectations are not being met, a call home will happen the first and second times.**

**If there are reoccurring disruptions after to learning or safety, a written referral to administration will be submitted.**

**School-issued laptops or personal laptops/tablets are the only acceptable devices for schoolwork in my classroom.** Students are not permitted to use their phones to complete work. If a student does not have a qualifying device to complete the digital assignment, they will be expected to complete the assignment on paper. This does not create free choice on how to submit assignments. Being prepared for class is part of “earning the grade you want” and having access to the necessary resources. If the laptop is broken or missing, the student must contact technology services by creating a ticket to repair or replace the device. https://episd.zendesk.com/hc/en-us

**Cell phone use in class is prohibited.** Students are not permitted to text, make or answer calls, scroll on apps, check grades, order food, take pictures or any other various actions on their phones. I will give an initial warning to put it away. The next violation, the phone will be picked up and held in my desk. If a student refuses, it will be an automatic discipline referral. Many students suffer with anxiety, depression, poor posture, limited attention span due to phone use. In my classroom, A NO CELL PHONE policy helps to build face-to-face connections and manage academic tasks within our four walls and 95 minutes together.

**Academic expectations** are a team effort between teachers, students, and parents. In this class students will be expected to:

ATTEND AT LEAST 3 TUTORING SESSIONS A NINE WEEKS

‣ @ lunch on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

‣ immediately after school on Mondays and Thursdays

PUT IN EFFORT TO BE ASSESSED FOR FEEDBACK

‣ Some work is better than no work.

KNOW HOW TO OFFER CONSTRUCTIVE FEEDBACK TO PEERS

‣ Peer review is a key part of internalizing knowledge and practicing skills for growth.

BE PRESENT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

‣ Sick days, appointments, extracurriculars, and emergencies are expected.

ADHERE TO DUE DATES AND MAKE-UP POLICIES

‣ **Missed assignments because of absences** are given one extra day per absence to complete and submit.

‣ Some assignments will be required to be made up during tutoring sessions.

‣ **A failed assignment with a 69 or below can be made-up.**

To manage workloads for students and the teacher, students have from the time the grade is posted to the end of the grading period to attempt a similar assignment. Grading periods include progress reports (3rd and 6th weeks) and report cards (9 weeks).

‣ **Work is expected to be submitted on the due date.** Assignments will lose 10 points for each class meeting it is late up until 3 days. Work can still be submitted until the end of the grading period; the highest possible grade will be a 70.

\*Students will have an opportunity to comment on what their expectations are of their teacher.

**Materials** that students need for learning will be **provided by the district**. This **includes a laptop, a charger, notebooks, pens, pencils, highlighters** as well as other items. Students will be given these items; these items become their responsibility to maintain and bring to class. With that in mind, there is limited walking space in the classrooms with full rosters of students; therefore, **students will not be able to bring multiple bags to class. Any bag they use must fit on the back of their chair or under their seat/desk**. Lockers are available through first period teachers if a student needs to house their belongings.

**Students will be required to have a personal choice book they are reading outside of class.** Our library has a plethora of interesting reads that our students can check out for free! Students can also check out books from the El Paso Public Libraries or buy books they’re interested in reading. **Bottom line: students must have a book to read independently for sustained silent reading time (SSR), when they finish an assignment ahead of others, and for their independent projects.** The genre for book selections will be assigned to students as we cover the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

The curriculum is being rolled out to us as we progress through the school year. However, the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills remain constant. English 1 and English 2 are preparing for the End of Course exams also known as STAAR tests. This year we will read informational texts, argumentative pieces, poetry, correspondences, memoirs, and short stories in class. Novels will be individually chosen and read as independent work as mentioned in the previous paragraph. **You can expect your student to read independently and aloud, write fiction and nonfiction, speak to input their voice, listen to understand and respect other perspectives.**

**The content we will study will come from a few different online platforms. The ones we will use the most are:**

* **Schoology** will house agendas, resources, instructions, and some assignments. This is your “go-to” to see a week at-a-glance, especially if/when absent. Parental access to our Schoology course can be attained by emailing me for a code.
* **Springboard** will be a primary source where we will read and write assignments.
* **No Red Ink** will be used for grammar and writing lessons.

Students can access these platforms by **using their school-given email and password**. Instructions on how to access Springboard and No Red Ink will be posted in our Schoology course. Parents, please ask your students to see their progress on these sites to get an idea of what is being covered in class.

\* This may change due to unexpected accessibility or lack of efficacy throughout the year.

A lot of information on these pages so to wrap up, any questions, comments, or concerns can be addressed by emailing me at **blimas@episd.org.** Students are welcome to stop by my room during lunch or after school for quick check-ins or plan to stay for a tutoring session. Parents and Guardians can set up a phone conversation or an in-person meeting by emailing me. Thank you for reading this letter. I hope and plan to have an interesting and productive year with you.

Sincerely,

Ms. Brandi Limas

**Please detach below the dotted line and return to Ms. Limas**

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**I have read the above letter with my child and acknowledge the expectations of this class.**

**Today’s date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Student’s name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student’s signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent’s name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent’s signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent’s phone number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Parent’s email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Which method of notification do you prefer? phone call email**