

Hello Parents and Guardians,

My name is Christine Homa, and I am pleased to be sharing a classroom with your children as their English Language Arts teacher for this semester! I received my undergraduate degree in English Literature from the University of Pittsburgh in 2012 and my Master of Arts in Teaching from Pitt's School of Education in 2013. I am very excited to continue my teaching career at South Mecklenburg.

This year, we will tackle several new literary works—both fictional and informational—in order to enhance students' critical reading and analytical skills. We will take an inquiry-based approach to all new content in which students study a topic through exploration, allowing them to question what is unknown and challenge current perceptions. Through these methods, students will engage in activities that allow them to communicate freely and openly with their fellow classmates, broadening their perspectives by considering those of others.

An even greater component of this course will be geared towards developing and refining student **WRITING PROFICIENCY**. Students will compose pieces in which they create and justify their own claims regarding topics that interest them. Critical to our exploration of the writing process is seeing it as just that—a process! While there is the expectation that students' abilities will advance this semester, it is expected that this will happen *organically* and *progressively* over time. There will be multiple opportunities for students to take a close view at their own work as well as that of their classmates as they learn to enhance their writing through the work and input of others.

Ultimately, my goal for this year is to teach students to view writing and literature as tools that allow them to access different worlds of success. If there are ever any concerns or questions that you have, I encourage you to contact me via email at christinem.homa@cms.k12.nc.us. I look forward to getting to know your children and to an exciting, enlightening semester!

Sincerely,

Christine M. Homa

South Mecklenburg High School

*If possible, I am asking that each student please donate **one box of tissues** to benefit the classroom sniffles cause!

Welcome to Honors English 2

Ms. Homa

christinem.homa@cms.k12.nc.us

www.elahoma.weebly.com

For this class you will need to bring the following items:

- Reader/Writer Notebook: 3-ring binder with lined paper and folder pockets; bring this EVERY DAY
- Writing utensil
- Assigned texts—recommended but not required for purchase
 - *A Doll's House* (Ibsen)
 - *The Field Guide to the North American Teenager* (Philippe)
- Agenda book
- Current photo of yourself

We will be engaging in various assignments throughout the semester. These tasks may include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Essays (narrative, argumentative, research-based)
- Tests/quizzes
- Quick-writes
- Constructed responses
- Seminars
- Oral debates
- Revisions and reflections

Grading:

- 90-100%...A
- 80-89%...B
- 70-79%...C
- 60-69%...D
- Below 60%...F

Procedures and Rules:

- Arrive on time! Class begins as soon as the bell rings.
- After arriving, look for the assignments on the board and complete the daily warm-up in your reader/writer notebook
- No student will be permitted to leave the room within the first or last fifteen minutes of class.
- If you do need to leave the class, you must take the hall pass.
- Late work may result in point deduction (see CMS policy).
- You are responsible for missed work (check assignment drawers). You can email work to me and ask about newly assigned tasks. Work is to be completed and submitted upon your return (see CMS policy).

Clause of Expectations

As a member of this English Language Arts class, I promise to uphold and fulfill the following expectations:

- Use appropriate, accountable talk when engaging in discussion
- Respect the rules and materials of the classroom
- Come to class prepared every day
- Complete the tasks asked of me in a timely manner
- Participate actively and positively
- Demonstrate best effort for all assignments and activities
- Hold myself accountable for my behavior and quality of work
- Show respect towards others as well as their perspectives and opinions
- Refrain from using personal technology unless specifically instructed to do so
- Ask for help when confused or struggling
- Embrace the degree of challenge that the course might present
- Freely address problems or concerns regarding assignments, grades, etc. in an appropriate and polite manner
- Take pride in the work I produce
- Recognize and celebrate personal success as well as the success of others

My signature denotes my understanding of and vow to uphold the stated requirements and expectations for this class.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian: _____

Date: _____