## Be Respectful

Being respectful is a rather basic concept. Treating teachers, your classmates, and yourself with dignity and consideration will be expected of all students at all times.

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| * listening and allowing others to speak, using appropriate language * addressing people correctly * asking permission | * being alert in class * keeping to yourself and your property (i.e. not bothering other people or property) |

## Be On Time

Being in class, in your desk, when the bell rings is a requirement of this classroom. All students need to be seated in their desk when the bell rings. If students fail to be in their desk at the time of the second bell, they will be counted tardy.

## Be Prepared

It is IMPERATIVE that students have the needed materials when the bell rings. Coming to class without necessary items for the class period may result in a tardy or detention. This includes a pencil or pen, paper/notebook, textbook, device, and a book for independent reading.

In addition, students should be prepared for remaining in the room for the entirety of the class period. All bathroom breaks, drinks, items in lockers, or needing to talk with another teacher must be dealt with before the tardy bell rings. Use your time between classes wisely. If you need to use the restroom and will not be back to the room by the bell, calmly and politely inform me, and we can work something out. Be aware of the natural breaks that occur in our block scheduled class time, and use those times to ask to use the bathroom if you cannot wait until the end of the class period. I discourage students to leave the room during important times of the class session (lecture, group work, quizzes, etc).

## Food and Drinks

No gum. It is a personal thing, and I ask students to respect the rule for my room.

## Contacting Mrs.Olinger

Feel free to email me any hour of the day, but please remember that I am a person with a family and a life outside of school; I do not check my email hourly. ALWAYS REMEMBER: You can access your Springboard book online, and the homework and lesson plans are on my website!

## Email: [Amanda.Olinger@k12.sd.us](mailto:Amanda.Olinger@k12.sd.us) Website: olingerenglish.weebly.comCheating, Plagiarism and Homework Policies

Check the student handbook. Plagiarism and pretending somebody else’s work is yours; please don’t do that. Cheating and/or plagiarism results in a zero on the assignemnt, test, or quiz.

## Homework

Students will be assigned homework regularly so that we can get through all the material we need to get through. Students will read outside of class and do much of their writing outside of class. I try not to assign more than 20 minutes a night, but some nights it may be more, and some nights it may be less!

### Late Work

I will follow the procedures for late and missing work that is established in the student handbook.

* If your homework is not handed in when it is called for or due then it is late and a ZAP will be assigned.
* If your printer is not working or if you forget your device there are many options to still get your homework to school: jump drive, email, googledocs, etc. You have to try to get your homework to me before class starts. Just saying, “I forgot it” “It’s on my device and my device is at home,” means your work is late.
* A parent email does not necessarily excuse a student from a ZAP.

## ABSENCES and Homework

* If you are absent it is ***your*** responsibility to get notes and make up work from a classmate or myself ***not during class please.***
* Check the handbook for the school policy, but if a student knows they will be gone (i.e. doctor’s appointments, vacations, orthodontist, etc) they should make their work up before they leave school.

# My Educational and Classroom Philosophy

My life and educational philosophy is simple: you reap what you sew. I believe in promoting a rigorous academic experience that challenges students to rise and see their truest potential.

I push myself to be the best at all times and I expect the same from my students. I continually work on the curriculum I teach students to ensure it is an up to date that focuses on student success in high school, AP classes, and college. I take my responsibility of preparing students for their futures and challenging them very seriously. Every day in class, each activity we do, and all assignments I give are full of purpose and intent—if something isn’t of value I won’t have students do it. Advanced courses move fast and provide rigor….expect that in this course. This means a few things:

1. This is not easy—you will have to work hard
2. You need to push yourself—if you always quit when it gets hard you never know what you can achieve.
3. There will be homework: almost every night you will have homework.
4. Grade inflation Does Not Exist Here: C = average. By just doing the work you will earn yourself a C.

Be prepared to work hard; if you want maximum results you need to put in maximum effort—results don’t come for free. The benefits of this rigorous class are numerous. You will finish this year being able to do more than you thought you could, knowing more than you thought you would, and feeling as though you can take on the world….the English world that is! This means you will be able to:

1. Write high school level papers or at least be prepared for writing high school level writing
2. Grammatically correct writing and citing material in your texts.
3. Reading difficult text with a critical and analytical point of view….yours.
4. Using strategies that enable you to score better on tests and AP courses.

There will be times that students feel challenged: that is ok. There will be times students may not get A’s: that is ok. There may be times that students don’t think they are capable of doing the work: that is ok. I know after years of experience that THEY CAN do the work and THEY WILL be successful if they try their best, work hard, and rise to the challenges. I also know that my students will not get better if I do not challenge them, push them, or provide them with new experiences.

I understand that life is a balancing act; I do not plan to overwhelm my students and monopolize their life. In addition to working hard, I also like to play hard-and my classroom doesn’t escape that life philosophy either! You will work hard in this class, but you will also have more fun in here than in any other class as well. We complete fun, hands on projects and activities, many discussions that help students better understand themselves, their points of views and ideas, and we just plain laugh a lot.