

## Junior English -- Hess Style

This English course is amazing! Think of it as the Hess Book Club. We will be focusing on *Book Love*. Not only will we read spectacular pieces of literature and have interesting discussions about them, but we will also be preparing for the state proficiency test and for life beyond high school. Throughout this course, you should be expanding your communicative skills (such as writing, listening, and speaking) and enhancing your appreciation of literature.

We will be practicing reading skills both verbally and silently. You should improve your reading comprehension skills. There is no set textbook, instead we will be reading many novels and/or trade books. The class covers and will utilize a variety of pieces of literature such as short stories, dramas, novels, nonfiction, and poetry. You will be **required** to read *Tuesdays with Morrie*, *Night*, *The Little Prince*, and *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, and/or *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. You will participate in 2 book clubs. With ***Coming of Age*** Book Club, you may choose to read one of the following pieces of literature: *House on Mango Street*; *Catcher in the Rye*; *The Secret Life of Bees*; *Monster: a Graphic Novel*; *Looking for Alaska*; *A Summer of the Silk Moths*; *A Separate Peace*; and/or *The Small Crimes of Tiffany Templeton*. With ***Breaking the Norm*** Book Club, you may choose to read one of the following pieces of literature: *1984*; *Alas, Babylon*; *And Then There Were None*; *Jurassic Park*; *Flowers for Algernon*; *Five People You Meet in Heaven*, *Butter*; *Descent*; and/or *The Lovely Bones*. Then you will be expected to do **independent** reading. You will read a book of your own choosing...at least one per month. I expect you to read at least 10-15 pages a day, 100 pages a week, and 9 books for Junior year.

Speech is incorporated into the English classes. In Junior English, we will be giving occasional presentations in front of the class. Through these activities, your fear of public speaking should be reduced if not eliminated. You will also have opportunities to share your own writing with the rest of the class.

You will be evaluated on your progress in reading, writing, speaking and listening, language, and assessments. You may show your depth of knowledge and improvement through papers/projects, tests, quizzes, classwork, homework, SAT test preparation, and participation. Scales are available on Google Classroom. You should know what grade you are going to receive by looking at the scales. You will read and write EVERY day in this class. I will be weighing different aspects of your work and performances. The break-down of the overall grade of Junior English is...

READING	20%
WRITING	20%
LANGUAGE	20%
SPEAKING & LISTENING	20%
EXAMS/EXIT PROJECTS	20%

Homework will be assigned rarely; I expect it to be completed. However, you need to READ. Also, if you do not finish your classwork, then you do have homework. I expect the work to be turned in the next day.

All assignments may be re-done for more credit. You may fix your mistakes, but you must also explain why the corrected responses are better answers. Hopefully, you will learn from your mistakes.

Tests may also be re-done. With this option, you must let me know that you would like another test or quiz. I will create a new test. Then you need to schedule an appointment with me before or after school to take it. The only time work may NOT be redone or retaken is if you have cheated on the first test. With good participation and study habits and with the policy of re-doing assignments, failure is almost an impossibility. It is up to you to be responsible for your education.

Late work will be accepted until the next month. This is grace. For example, October work will NOT be accepted after the beginning of November. It's a hard deadline. I expect you to do your work EVERY day.

I expect you to have Academic Integrity. You will need to ensure that all of your academic work is a true reflection of your OWN effort and understanding (not AI). You will properly cite ALL sources, including AI, to maintain transparency. If you have any questions or concerns about academic integrity, please reach out for support.

You have many tools at your disposal to keep track of your progress. **PowerSchool** is one. I update daily. My website is another: [chess.buchananschools.com](http://chess.buchananschools.com). My Google Classroom is another source. Be sure to get the code and join it. If you or your parents have any questions or concerns, you may ask during class and before or after school. After school hours, I may be reached through email at [chess@buchananschools.com](mailto:chess@buchananschools.com). We should have a great class this year in Junior English. I am expecting great things from you. You are going to work hard, and hopefully, you will excel.

## Expectations for myself in Mrs. Hess's room

1. *I need to show respect for Mrs. Hess, my fellow classmates, and myself.*

- \* This means that while Mrs. Hess or my classmates are talking, I will keep my mouth shut and will wait my turn.
- \* It also means that I will respect their belongings and space. I will ask permission before I "borrow" something.
- \* This also means that I will conduct myself appropriately. I will do what is asked of me with a positive attitude, and I will not disrupt my classmates' learning process and/or environment.

2. *I understand that I am to be prepared for class.*

\* This means that I am to bring my Chromebook, book, notebook, pencil, pen, and/or anything that I might need to class every day. I will be responsible.

\* This also means that I will bring any assignments or homework to class when they are due.

\* I understand that Mrs. Hess does not like to have assignments turned in late. In fact, if I am absent on a day that an assignment is due, it is due the day I return to class.

\* I understand that Mrs. Hess is a kind, generous, and compassionate woman who will allow me to turn in an assignment late; however, there is a hard deadline. All work must be completed by the end of the month or it will NOT be accepted in the next month.

\* I understand that if I bring an inappropriate object to class such as a cell phone, a coat, a jacket, a music player, a toy, a deck of cards, etc., Mrs. Hess may confiscate it. She will return it to me at the end of the school day. My phone belongs in my bag, backpack, or pocket; If my cell phone is out, it will be housed in the cell phone hotel. I am, however, allowed to have snacks and something to drink as long as I clean up after myself..

\* I understand that Mrs. Hess is old school. She believes in proper etiquette. In her classroom, I may NOT wear a hat or use earbuds or headphones...unless I am given permission to.

*3. I need to take an active part in my education.*

This means that I am going to participate in class discussions and in class activities with a positive attitude. I am going to try my best every day, because I know that Mrs. Hess expects my best, and I expect that for myself too. If I don't understand or if I'm unsure, I will ask questions and seek help.

*4. I understand that cheating and/or plagiarism will not be tolerated.*

Not only will I receive a zero and will not be allowed to make-up or re-take the assignment, test, and/or quiz, but I will have to face the consequences in the office, which are clearly outlined in the student handbook. I will show my growth and intelligence through my own thinking and writing.

I will follow the AI Levels.

*5. I need to be in Mrs. Hess's classroom and in my seat ready to learn when it is time for class.*

I understand that Mrs. Hess will follow the school's tardy policy which is described in the student

handbook. I also understand that I am to remain in my seat until Mrs. Hess dismisses me from class. I will not line up by the door.

6. *I understand that Mrs. Hess believes that there is a time and place for everything.*

The classroom is a place to improve my communication and expression skills. Profanity doesn't do that; therefore, profanity is unacceptable in the classroom. Reading time is just that...a time for reading. I will be expected to read quietly during the allotted time. Writing time is for writing. I am to be writing in my digital notebook during the given time. Work/ICE time is my time to work and get to be productive.

7. *If I don't live up to Mrs. Hess's expectations or if I break school rules, I know that I will have to face the consequences.*

Those consequences may include a phone call home or email to my parent/guardian, penalty box, detention, referral, office visit, and/or OSS. By accepting responsibility for my actions, I am becoming a good and productive citizen.

8. *When Mrs. Hess does assign homework, it is due the very next day for full credit (no excuses).*

\* If I don't finish class assignments, then I do have homework. It is my responsibility to do my **BEST** on **ALL** of my assignments.

\* In fact, Mrs. Hess will allow me to re-do homework and classwork in order to receive a better grade. I will receive an extra half point for every corrected response.

\* I may also retake tests. Mrs. Hess takes the best score.

9. *If I have difficulties in class, I understand that I can ask Mrs. Hess for help.*

She is available during class, before or after school, or I could even e-mail her at [chess@buchananschools.com](mailto:chess@buchananschools.com).

10. *I understand that Mrs. Hess uses proficiency scales and rubrics for grading.*

Scales and rubrics will be available in Google Classroom. I will be sure to review the scales and rubrics so I know what is expected of me and the assignments.

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**Dear Families:**

Hello! My name is Mrs. Hess, and I will be your child's Junior English teacher this school year.

I want to take a minute to share with you an important program that the BHS English Department has implemented in our classrooms. It is one of our core beliefs that students need to develop life-long reading habits so that they become informed and engaged citizens. Even though students may read material like magazines, newspapers, text messages, tweets, etc., it is important they begin to develop stamina to read longer and more complicated texts. At the collegiate level, they will be expected to read a minimum of 200 pages a week. Most high school graduates are not comfortable with that amount of sustained reading, and I would like to spend part of my time with your student by helping to develop those skills he/she will need.

To that end, we have implemented a choice reading program this year. Each student will set individual goals for him/herself weekly and long-term throughout the semester. I will conference with students about the book(s) they are reading, and they will be reporting their reading progress multiple times a week through their digital reading charts in their notebooks and their weekly quizzes. I expect students to read 100 pages a week. That is on average about 15 pages a day. Our goal is to read at least 9 books (hopefully many more!) this year.

Students will be able to choose from the books in my classroom library and/or our public library, or they may choose to bring in a book. As I am asking several classes of students to read multiple books this year, I will not know the details of every book they choose. I have books in our library that I have not read, and some I read years ago, and the details have faded. The bottom line is I will not be keeping a tight filter on what students choose to read for this program as long as the texts are not clearly inappropriate. With that being said, I respect your beliefs and your role as your child's parent(s). If you would like to monitor more closely what your student is reading or are uncomfortable with a text he or she brings home from our library, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will be more than happy to set up a time to meet with you and your child to work out a plan that works for everyone. I will gladly help him or her find a new book.

Please sign below to indicate you are aware of my policies and to give your student permission to borrow books from our library. Regardless of whether or not students borrow books from our library, the expectation for consistent reading remains the same, so they will need to access books from other places. They are to bring a book EVERY day to class!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Candy A. Hess". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left and then curves back under the name.

It is my goal (Mrs. Hess's too) to have a successful year and to do my best. I understand what is expected of me in Junior English.

signed: \_\_\_\_\_

date: \_\_\_\_\_

I have read and discussed with my child \_\_\_\_\_, the expectations for him/her in Mrs. Hess's classroom that can be found on Mrs. Hess's website:

<https://chess.buchananschools.com/junior-english>. I realize that it is important for me to be involved in my child's education. I am also giving my child permission to read books from the classroom library. If I have any questions, comments, or concerns, I will contact Mrs. Hess at 695-8403 during school hours or e-mail her at [chess@buchananschools.com](mailto:chess@buchananschools.com) at my convenience.

signed: \_\_\_\_\_

date: \_\_\_\_\_

email (for contact purposes): \_\_\_\_\_

website → [chess.buchananschools.com](https://chess.buchananschools.com)