

English Foundations 4 Syllabus 2025-2026

Mrs. DiRienzo

Periods: 1 & 6

Course Description: This course is designed to improve communication skills by emphasizing correct grammar, developing vocabulary and improving writing. Students will critically read world literature (short stories, novels, poems, and plays) and career preparation via reference material and informational text. All language processes: speaking, listening, viewing, writing, and reading will be incorporated into the classroom activities.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW...

A. Evaluation:

- 1. Participation – 15% of total grade**
- 2. Collaborative Work – 20% of total grade:** Any work completed together where answers are discussed and reviewed as a whole OR a collaborative assignment completed by groups
- 3. Quizzes -20% of total grade**
- 4. Independent Work – 20% of total grade:** Any work completed by yourself
- 5. Tests/Projects/Writing - 25% of total grade:** A major test or alternative assessment will be given at the end of each unit. Projects will be counted as tests.
- 6. Extra Credit:** Extra credit opportunities may be given each marking period. These may include bonus points on tests/quizzes or additional points on an assignment. Extra credit will **NOT** be given if all assigned work is not completed.

Chromebook Information:

- ✓ Every student is responsible to bring his/her Chromebook to class every, single day.
- ✓ Chromebooks should be fully charged for the beginning of each school day.

Tartan Time: A and C days or by appointment only

After school: By appointment only on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays in A206

Email: adirienzo@bhprsd.org – for class related reasons ONLY

I WILL BE FOLLOWING THE SCHOOLWIDE CELL PHONE POLICY

- a. When you arrive to class, place your phone in YOUR ASSIGNED POUCH.
- b. If you do not have a cell phone with that day, ask for your “I DON’T HAVE A PHONE TODAY” card. Place that in the pouch instead.
- c. Phones/cards in pouches is how I will take attendance. Failure to do so will result in being marked absent.
- d. If your phone is removed from the pouch before the bell or if the card is in the pouch but you are observed using a phone during class, will result in a referral to the vice principal as well as contact home.
- e. Outright refusal to put your phone in the pouch will result in a referral to the vice principal as well as contact home
- f. Personal devices like outside laptops and ipads are not permitted

EXPECTATIONS:

1. **Attend class regularly.** You will have access to assignments via Google classroom regardless of absence. **All quizzes and tests must be made up within a week of the absence during Tartan Time or after school.** Long term assignments are due on the due date regardless of absence. If you cut class or attempt to sleep, put your head down, or use your Chromebook for non-academic reasons instead, do **NOT** expect to be allowed to make up that work.
2. **DO NOT RAISE YOUR HAND!** Questioning will be done via popsicle sticks, Google Classroom/Google Forms, or Yes/No paddles.
3. **PASSES will be issued at my discretion.** If you ask to go to the bathroom in the middle of a lesson, you will be told NO. Passes are for the beginning and end of class. You may NOT leave class every day. All passes must be made using SmartPass.
4. **IF YOU ARE LATE TO CLASS: YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE ROOM FOR ANY REASON UNLESS THE NURSE, A GUIDANCE COUNSELOR/CASE MANAGER, OR VICE PRINCIPAL CALLS FOR YOU SPECIFICALLY.**
 - a. **1st lateness to class: WARNING (recorded in Genesis)**
 - b. **2nd lateness to class: TEACHER DETENTION DURING TARTAN TIME & CONTACT HOME (recorded in Genesis)**
 - c. **3rd lateness to class: REFERRAL TO VP & CONTACT HOME (recorded in Genesis)**
 - d. **EACH ADDITIONAL LATENESS BEYOND THE 3RD WILL RESULT IN A VP REFERRAL**
5. **Follow the school policies.** Observe the dress code. If you are in violation of the dress code, you will be sent to the VP.
6. **Eating and drinking is at teacher's discretion. Drinks must be in a container with a lid or cap.**
7. **RESPECT:** Have respect for yourself, your classmates, and your teacher. Be willing to share and consider new ideas. Rude and inappropriate behavior and language are not acceptable. **It is unacceptable to put down other students.**