

Dear Families,

Hello! My name is Kelly Paul, and I am **excited** to partner with you in English 8! I wanted to take a moment to share basic information to help ease you into the first days of the upcoming school year.



But, first, how are you? How was your summer? I hope you were able to relax and make memories with family and friends. And now, with a new school year on the horizon, I bet there is also the usual anxiety with new classes and teachers (hopefully, mixed in with some excitement and anticipation). I totally understand; I feel the same way. Let me reassure you that along with delivering a rigorous, robust English curriculum, students' health and social/emotional well-being are top priorities for me. I strive to earn students' trust and to help them feel comfortable navigating all aspects of 8th grade.

Communication: I value communication in all forms. You are welcome to email me at kpaul@nhart.org or call me at school. I promise to get back to you as soon as I can.

Class Information: For those of you interested in a deep dive into our program, here is a link to my class website. Happy browsing!

<https://sites.google.com/nhart.org/english8withkellypaul/home>

Google Classroom: Google Classroom has become our lifeline, and I post to it daily. Google Classroom codes and protocols will be reviewed with students during the first few days of school. Here is a terrific video overview of Google Classroom to use as a refresher if you desire:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IgS-hoSIjnw>

Independent Reading:

Because reading is vital, each class will begin with a designated independent reading time. No worksheets...no grades...just pure reading! Books, newspapers, magazines, graphic novels...all are welcome!

Finding Success: Let me adopt my "parent hat" and share a few ideas for school success:

- Adopt a set schedule, especially the same weekday bedtime and wake-up times.
- Adopt a cell phone-free zone while working. Research says people DO NOT multitask well, which means our teens cannot text, TikTok, game, and study at the same time, even though they will dispute this!
- Check the portal regularly. If your child thinks I made a mistake, please have them let me know. I will fix it immediately.
- Please encourage reading at home. Students should be able to tell you about the texts they are reading in class, and you should see them actually reading at home. I teach SAT college prep classes, and many juniors and seniors panic when they see the timed

reading passages and questions. Every year they ask how they can read and process information faster. I have one answer: READ!

- Please reach out if you feel overwhelmed or need help. I am here for you!

In closing, as we return to a new school year, my essential message to students remains the same: ***You matter, and we adults will do everything we can to ensure your health, your emotional well-being, and your academic success. We are here for YOU!***

Thank you for your time and partnership; I am honored to work with you. And, to all my 8th graders, I look forward to seeing your smiling faces next week. Follow the loud music...it will bring you right to Room 103, your English 8 classroom! :)

Best,
Kelly Paul 