

Dear Families,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child to my classroom and to provide an overview of my gifted English program. I am looking forward to an exciting, productive, and meaningful year with your child!

I can be reached via email at denee@aps.edu. My voice mail extension at Eisenhower is 33551.

I regularly post daily assignments, homework, and due dates on PlanBook. You can check out my lesson plans by going to <https://www.planbook.com/>. Click on the button labeled: View your teacher's plans. Enter my email address: denee@aps.edu. Enter the student key: plans I encourage your family to consult this site along with Synergy frequently to stay on top of your child's grades.

What follows is a brief outline of my program.

Literature

Students will begin the first nine weeks reading several selections from the literature anthology in class. As the semester progresses, we will study literary elements and analysis. We will also be examining and analyzing non-fiction. I will give students assigned reading due dates over class-wide selections and will quiz students to ascertain reading comprehension.



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ORR (Outside Reading Requirement)

Students are required to read at least four novels of different genres over the course of the school year. ORR books must be high-quality literature that is parent-approved. In addition, the book must not have been previously read and should be at an appropriate reading level for the student. I have an extensive classroom library and provide recommendations for each genre should students need guidance in selecting a book.

Every quarter, students must sign up to give a persuasive book talk to the class about one of ORR books that was read. More information about ORR Book Talks will be forthcoming.

Vocabulary



Students will have many opportunities to expand their vocabulary. Each anchor piece of literature will have selected vocabulary which students must master. Students are also required to learn content-related terms like literary, poetry, figurative

language, grammar, and academic vocabulary. Students will use Membean which is an online, contextually-rich vocabulary program. (More information about Membean will be forthcoming.) Lastly, students will also learn Greek and Latin word roots.

All vocabulary will be tested whether the vocabulary is content-related, Greek and Latin word roots, or from a piece of literature. This means that students will need to invest time outside of class to study. For the Greek and Latin vocabulary and other vocabulary, students will be able to practice quizzing themselves on Quizlet, an online quiz site.

Language Arts



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Students will have many writing assignments over the course of the year. Typically, students will be expected to produce a piece of writing which mirrors what we are studying in literature. For example, when studying poetry, students will write poems. Many writing tasks will be completed in class; however, some writing tasks will be started in class and finished at home. Final pieces that are finished at home should be typed.

Parents are not expected to revise or edit for the student. Students complete a Writing Error Analysis for every piece of writing. As the name suggests, students must analyze the errors made and set a goal to address a writing problem on the next piece of writing, the goal being to improve the quality of writing over time. All writing is kept in a Writing Folder that remains in the classroom. Students can check out their Writing Folder to share with you at any time during the year.

Necessary Supplies



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3 Ring (one inch) binder with tabbed dividers labeled as follows:

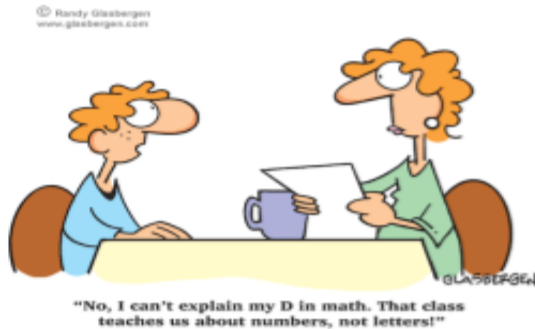
1. GUM
2. Writing
3. Reading
4. Vocabulary

(This binder is for my classroom ONLY and is housed in the classroom, so students don't need to carry it to class each day.)

- Post-it notes (small and medium)

- 2 pocket folder with brads (This two pocket folder is for my classroom ONLY and is housed in the classroom, so students don't need to carry it to class each day.)
- 1 Box of tissues
- Paper, pens, pencils, highlighters

EVALUATION



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I use a four-point grading scale which minimizes the very negative impact that one zero can have on grades. In a four-point grading scale a four = A; three = B; two = C; one = D; zero = F.

I weigh some assignments and tests more. Overall, I have three categories student work can fall under: Practice 25%, Quizzes 25%, and Tests 50%.

To align my four-point scale with grading percentages, I must also modify the traditional grading scale. My grading scale is as follows:

80%-100% = A 60%-79% = B 40%-59% = C 20%-39% = D 0%-19% = F

Unfortunately, Synergy does not allow me to input a formula which would accurately reflect students' grades according to my scale. The only time that I can override the traditional scale is at the end of the nine weeks when I submit my grades for the report cards.

IEPs

Your child is required to have an annual special education Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting; a typical gifted IEP meeting takes between thirty to forty-five minutes to complete. My instruction is structured to meet individual student's needs as well as gifted strands and the Common Core Standards. You can expect Progress Toward Goal statements to be sent home each nine weeks to keep you informed about how your child is progressing.

Hopefully, this brief overview gives your family a glimpse into my gifted program. Please contact me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to working with your child!

Sincerely,

Lori DeNee



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Please cut, sign, and send with your child.

My child and I have read Mrs. DeNee's Family Letter.

Student's name: _____

Parent signature: _____

This is an extra copy of the supply list to take to the store with you.

Supply List for Mrs. DeNee's class

Please have your supplies by next Monday, August 21. (Privately let me know if you need help obtaining your supplies.)

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