

MIDDLE SCHOOL 101

How to Survive (And Thrive!) in Mrs. Honey's English 6

Welcome to English 6! I am very excited to have you in my class, and hope that you will find it interesting, helpful, fun, and, most importantly, meaningful. The purpose of English 6 is to inspire an appreciation for the English language through reading, writing, speaking, and listening. To help you gain this knowledge, you should expect that you will have a safe, comfortable environment in which to learn, and that your learning needs will be respected. Furthermore, you can be sure that you will be instructed in a competent, knowledgeable manner, and that I will be available to help you as needed. In terms of what to expect of yourself, see the guidelines below; they will ensure that you make positive decisions and help make your sixth grade year memorable.

#1 Attend Class Regularly

You'll want to be in school on a regular basis to keep up with classroom instruction and assignments. Coming to class as often as possible is one of the best ways to be sure you are learning the skills you need, and will save you a lot of trouble and frustration later.

#2 See the Teacher If You Are Absent

If you are absent, be sure to see me on the day you return **BEFORE** homeroom to get the assignments and lesson material you missed.

#3 Come to Class Prepared

Make sure you bring the items you need to participate in English to class with you **every day**:

- 3-ring binder (to store notes, texts, assignments)
- Planner (see below)
- Chrome book (We will use this to complete digital assignments and quizzes.)
- ORB (see below)
- 2 pencils (an extra just in case)
- Other utensils and note-taking materials: highlighters, colored pencils, sticky notes

You will not be able to leave class for these items, so make sure you have them before the bell rings.

#4 Use Your Planner

You will have your own planner, provided by the school, to record all your assignments. You'll do this during homeroom, where all assignments for each class will be posted, each day. It is **your** responsibility to record these assignments in your planner. Doing this every day will help you keep track of your homework and stay organized.

If you are absent from English class but not school (for band, doctor's appointment, etc.), it is still your responsibility to hand in your homework that day. Please see me **before** homeroom to do so and pick up any new assignments.

#5 Stay on Top of Homework Assignments

Homework should be handed in on time. To do this, you'll need to learn the art of time management: scheduling enough time to balance all your classes and sixth grade duties. If you're having trouble with this, let me know and I will help you through it. Each assignment should also reflect your best effort. This means completing assignments neatly, thoroughly, and in pencil. Please do **not** use colored ink or highlighters for English homework; you will need to re-do it. Any work that is rushed, incomplete, messy, or poor quality will not be accepted. Remember: the quality of your work not only reflects you as a person, but is also what many will use to measure your success in the future.

#6 Always Have an ORB

No, not an orb...an ORB! ORBs are Outside ReadinBooks: books that **you** choose and read outside of class, in addition to assigned homework, throughout the year. You will read many ORBS, and report to the class on at least one. You should read your ORB for **30 minutes** each day. You can borrow them from the classroom library or the middle school library.

#7 Use Your Chromebook Responsibly

Your Chromebook is a **privilege** and is for **educational purposes**. It should only be used to complete assigned work at school, and must be kept in good condition. Be sure to monitor the time you spend on your Chromebook at home too. Too much screen time can lead to lack of sleep and other problems.

#8 Study

Make it a regular habit to review key notes and homework assignments. The homework will help you study for tests and quizzes, and will be counted equally in your overall average. You will also complete a final exam at the end of the year that tests your mastery of the skills we practice throughout the year, as well as a state test in April. Reviewing previous assignments will help you prepare for these tests. This is partly why keeping up with your homework and being in class is so important.

#9 Know and Follow the Classroom Expectations

You will need to follow the 5 P's in my class:

- **Be Prompt:** come to class and submit work on time.
- **Be Prepared:** come to class with all required materials.
- **Be Positive:** have an optimistic attitude and encourage your peers.
- **Be Productive:** stay on task; use time wisely; do your best.
- **Be Polite:** be respectful of those around you, both students and adults.

Everyone is expected to follow these expectations to the best of their ability. However, I understand that everybody has off days; as a result, first time offenses will be used as teachable moments to help you learn from them and grow. For inappropriate behavior that continues, there will be consequences depending on how often it happens and how serious. These could include warnings, discussions with me, staying after school or during a free period, or removing privileges. In extreme instances, a referral may be written, or you may be directed to visit the principal. In these cases, there will be a phone call home.

Keep in mind:

Your teachers reward those who display positive behavior and produce quality work with different activities throughout the year.

#10 Ask Questions

Moving to sixth grade means you now have a lot of new and exciting freedoms and responsibilities. If you have any questions, whether it be about English or middle school life, don't be afraid to ask! This is a new year for everybody, and your teachers are here to help.