

Welcome to 11 CP English with Mrs. Kraus

Here is an overview of the academics~

For this year of ***your learning experience***, junior English runs parallel with American History class. This means that our reading will start with the early American cultures of Native Americans. You will come to realize some touchstones that continue to reach back to these early peoples. We will then meet some influential Puritans as well as some men who brought about the birth of our nation as we still know it. The length and breadth of this class includes the works of slavery to the civil war through Modernism—with many other stops in between.

Literature, for this one year, steps away from any Shakespeare and instead will focus on some American classics including “Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,” “The Great Gatsby,” and “A Streetcar Named Desire.”

For ***vocabulary*** we will hit the ground running with our first vocabulary lesson starting next week—the first full week of school. Here you will find fifteen (15) lessons tethered to the SAT, so these lessons will prove beneficial when taking that test.

Each week we will cover a new lesson. Starting each Monday, I will expect the first portion of your workbook completed by Tuesday. That Thursday the entire chapter will be completed (grading in class), and then Friday is a chapter test; each test is made up of fifty (50) questions.

Grammar/writing concentrates on various elements that shore up academic writing skills: revising wordy sentences, misplaced modifiers, dangling modifiers, parallel construction as well as controlling ideas throughout the essay process.

Regarding ***writing***, this will be an on-going process. Juniors write an essay a quarter. In addition, you learn & practice the art of summarizing as well as reading critical essays as they respond to a particular text and in turn using these essays as a base to a critical essay of your own. At this grade level you will also develop analytical skills in order to further enhance both reading and writing skills.

Here is an overview of the ‘nitty-gritty’~

A big shift from being a sophomore, I expect a higher level of maturity in class. This includes respect—for your teacher and fellow classmates—self-control and responsibility when it comes to yourself and all others. In turn, I will model this for my students.

I expect you to come prepared with the materials necessary to be a prepared student! If you show up without being prepared, especially these first few weeks, I will understand you are asking me to call home—okay, I will oblige you and do so.

KEEP ALL GRADED WORK UNTIL SEMESTER GRADES. (if work is thrown away, we can’t verify a grade/score if I have mistakenly entered it incorrectly. The score/grade will stand.)

Turn in your homework when coming in to class. This is for you to remember.

Absent? It is your job to see me about missing work. This is your responsibility, not your parent/s. And now, as a junior, we are moving beyond that familiar student question, “Did you do anything when I was gone?” ☺ This is replaced with: “May I have any missing assignments, please?”

If you drop to a *C- or lower*, you have one week to raise it. If you make no effort to do this, I will understand you are asking me to call home—okay, I will oblige you here as well.

If you need to be reminded about proper classroom behavior/decorum, I will do my very best to speak to you in private, yet if your behavior continues I will call home; this decision is in your hands. If there is a problem, I will understand you are asking me to call home—okay, again, I will.

ALL HOMEWORK MUST BE TYPED.

If you are unable to print out your work, a parent signature is required at the top of your NEATLY PRINTED homework—in BLACK or BLUE ink only—no My Pink Pony glittery pink, etc..

MLA formatting is required on all of your work

Grading is on the cumulative/point value and not the percentage value for homework, class work, etc.

Experiencing any academic difficulties, confusion, questions, concerns, worries, and so on?—it is at this point in your educational experience that a student needs to learn to how speak to their teacher/s. You must practice using your voice rather than depending on a parent to speak for you. You have just two short years before entering college, and there is no better time than now to start practicing!

Grades are entered weekly, every Thursday by midnight. This is the deadline set up by our Administration. Please respect this time line rather than expecting me to enter your grade as soon as I receive your work: This will rarely occur.

If you miss turning in an assignment for any reason, a ZERO is entered in Grade Logic until the work has been submitted. See Student Handbook for deadlines concerning absences, etc.

When at home and you end up having questions about a particular assignment, do not hesitate to email me at: lkraus@saintbonaventure.com

And by the way~

When excused during class to use the bathroom, all students are REQUIRED to leave their cell phone in the cup on the file cabinet (I will point it out.)

Eating is for outside of the classroom while H2O is for outside and inside the classroom.

I attend various athletic and school events, and if I meet your parent/s you can rest assured I WILL NOT DISCUSS HOW YOU ARE DOING IN CLASS, GRADES, ETC. They can email me, or set up a conference for such information as I am there to enjoy the event and so are you. (As well, I don't carry my grade book with me.)

I know this all seems like a lot, and yet sooner than you realize it will be time to take your junior finals!

Thanks,