

Dear Parents and Students,



Welcome to Pickens High School! It's time for new beginnings.

My name is Judith Barber, and I will be teaching English 9 Literature and Composition. I have a lot of information to share with you in the following pages, but for now I'll keep it to a minimum.

Here are the basics:

This semester in English 9 we will be taking a journey through time beginning with mythology, then moving on to The Bible. We'll stop off in Elizabethan England for some Shakespeare, continue through 19th and 20th century works, and finish up with a look into the future. Major works of focus may include *The Odyssey*, *The Lord of the Flies*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *The Hunger Games* and *Fahrenheit 451*. As these indicate, this class will cover a wide variety of literary types including short stories, plays, poetry, and novels as well as essays and other nonfiction works.

In addition to the reading component of the class, students will write daily by responding to what they read in various ways or composing creative original works. They will review grammar and learn to apply organizational and research skills to improve the writing abilities so important for later success.

I invite you to visit my website, which you can access through the Pickens High School home page, as we take this journey. Lesson plans and assignments will be posted there each week so that you can follow along. Study helps, helpful links, and other information are available there as well.

You may also choose to receive updates, reminders, and notes through Remind101. This service allows me to send texts (or emails) to everyone who registers, keeping you updated on what's going on in class, what's due, test dates, etc.

To receive texts, text: @jbarber9 to 81010

For email messages, send an email to: jbarber9@mail.remind.com

My school email address and phone number are available on my website (and below) should you wish to contact me.

Phone: 706-253-1800

ext. 478

Email: judithbarber@pickenscountyschools.org

I'm looking forward to a great semester.

Sincerely,

Judith Barber

So, I mentioned “Twelve Angry Men” in my letter. If you are unfamiliar with it, let me just say that the title is appropriate. The anger in the play was prompted by misunderstandings, preconceived ideas, and a failure to work together. It gets ugly. In an effort to avoid such misunderstandings and the ensuing ugliness, I have laid out some guidelines for our time together.

First, you will need the following for class:*

- A 3 ring binder
- A package of standard or college ruled notebook paper
- Dividers for your binder (5)
- At least two pencils
- A good attitude

I expect you to bring these with you to class every day.

My other expectations are outlined in the Student Code of Conduct. For my class, specifically, here’s how this will look:

I expect you to be respectful of me and the other student’s in the class:

- Raise your hand if you have something to contribute to a discussion or you have a question. When others are speaking, listen quietly.
- Absolutely no cursing or profanity will be tolerated at all. Period.
- Wait until I, not the bell, dismiss you to leave the classroom.

I expect you to be responsible:

- Come to class (no brainer!)
- Come to class on time. This means you are in the room when the bell rings (preferably in your seat). Three tardies to class results in a referral to administration.
- Come to class prepared (See list of things you need to bring to class above). I do not provide your school supplies.
- Come to class focused. I expect you to pay attention, to participate, and to contribute.
 - Stay awake. Keep your head up at all times. If you’re cold, wear a jacket. Do not bring a blanket to class.
 - Focus on the task at hand (no working on other subjects, fixing hair or makeup, etc.)
 - Keep cell phones off and put away. Electronic devices are allowed between classes or during lunch. You may not have them out during class. If any are visible or disrupt class, they will be taken up and placed on my desk for the duration of the day. Second offense results in the phone being turned in according to PHS policy. If a cell phone or any other device is out during a test or quiz, it will be considered cheating and you will be given a zero on the assignment and a discipline referral.
- And finally, come to class with assignments ready. Do your own work** and turn it in on time.

****A special note about Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as your own.

This is a very serious offense. Students that have plagiarized any portion of their written work will receive a grade of 0. For the first offense, a student may rewrite the assignment for a grade no higher than a 70. For each offense thereafter, the student will receive a 0 with no rewrite.

I expect you to be safe:

- You may have bottled water in class, but nothing else to eat or drink. This includes soft drinks, candy of any kind, and gum.*** If you choose to buy something from the vending machine before my class, just be aware that you will have to save it until after class to eat or drink.
- Keep your hands, feet, elbows, knees and other body parts to yourself.
- Use the bathroom during breaks. Emergencies are understood, but should be rare: You have a total of 5 excused bathroom passes for the semester***. Also, according to administration, no one will be allowed out of the class within the first 15 and last 15 minutes of class.

Rewards

In addition to the all over good feeling you get just for doing the right thing, you may also receive “Done Goods” throughout the class period for participation, good work, helping others, and other acts of respect, responsibility, and safety.

At the end of class you may place your “Done Goods” in the basket at the door for a Friday drawing. The lucky winner will receive a Little Debbie snack cake of your choice (otherwise known as a “date with Debbie) with a juice box or Gatorade and a 5 point bonus on the weekly quiz. As an extra bonus, you will be allowed to enjoy your winning snack during class! (oooo! Ahhh!) A drawing for a larger prize will take place at the end of the first 9 weeks and the semester.

Break Detention

On the other hand, failure to comply with any of the rules listed may result in break detention. You will stay after class and will miss that happy break time that only comes in those magical 7 minutes of freedom each day.

In addition to the above rules, you may receive break detention for:

- Writing or carving into desktops, deliberately damaging walls, bookshelves, or anything else in the classroom.
- Throwing anything in the classroom.
- Pushing, shoving, attempting to trip someone, any type of horseplay at any time.
- Being inattentive or disruptive during class time, especially if it disrupts others around you.
- Attempting to close books, zip bags, or leave my class before I have dismissed you.

* No material will be denied to a child due to financial difficulty. If there is a problem, see me after class.

*** A written doctor's note is necessary for anything other than bottled water to be brought to class or for extra bathroom privileges.

And lastly, we come to grading. It's very simple:

Test, quizzes, and essays count as **60%** of your grade.

Daily assignments and homework make up **40%** of your grade.

Final exam (EOC) counts as **20%** of your overall semester grade.

- You will have a weekly quiz, generally on Friday, which will cover vocabulary and topics addressed during the week. Be ready.
- If you miss work due to an excused absence, you have time to make it up without penalty (as outlined in your student handbook). You must complete and turn in this work in the 10 school days allowed. I will not accept it after day 10.
- Work missed for any other reason must be made up within ten school days of the due date. Each day it is late, ten points will be deducted from the maximum possible grade. After day 10, you will receive a "0."

So, there you go. With these few expectations firmly in place, we should all reach the end of the semester together with a minimum of "Twelve Angry Men" syndrome and call the whole 18 weeks a great success!

Let's get started!

Cut along the line  and return the lower portion _____

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

Please print both your student's name and your name below. Then sign, date, and return it with your child by Friday, August 4. This will show me that you received it and the rest of the information attached.

Thank you.

Student name (print) _____

Parent name (print) _____

Parent Signature _____

Date _____