

MS. THROWER'S CLASSROOM EMPLOYEE EXPECTATIONS

Teacher Website: www.laurathrower.com

Email: lthrower@wcpss.net

Location: Trailer 1708

Planning Period: 2nd

After School Tutorials and Detentions: **Tuesdays (and other time by appointment only)**

HOW TO SUCCEED IN THIS CLASS: GRIT!

Did you know?...

People that believe intelligence is something you are “born with” are less likely to be successful and achieve higher levels of education than people who believe intelligence is a skill that can be taught, learned, and improved upon? **Which do YOU believe?**

It's true! Your brain is a muscle, and the things you learn and turn in for this class require skills. You aren't born with these skills, you learn them and practice them. **DON'T BELIEVE INTELLIGENCE IS SOMETHING YOU ARE BORN WITH.** Every day in school, you should challenge yourself and practice building skills you will need to survive in life and be qualified for a high paying job and to be a happier person that can make their OWN choices in life! Just like sports, or musical talent, or art skills, everyone in this class is at a different level. Every day you should ask yourself if you “got it” in class that day. If not, a life skill is your ability to review and re-learn on your own or through asking for help from others. Strive to be “better than average”. A “C” student will become a “C” adult...and that's not an easy life, emotionally or financially.

I will help teach you the skills you need to improve your knowledge and do well in this class. However, only YOU can self motivate, be fearless and willing to challenge yourself to become the most educated adult you can. You'll get out of this class, exactly what you put into it!

Top Two Things Needed to Achieve Success

1) FOCUS YOUR ATTENTION on everything happening every minute of the class. Lecture time is a time you should improve listening and summarizing skills. Videos, maps, and graphs are shown because your brain learns better through images. New words, ideas and thoughts are constantly coming at you in class through verbal, visual and written methods. You need to pay attention to all of them. **The EASIEST trick to focusing your attention quickly is to put your eyes on what you need to focus on. Your eyes tell your brain what to focus on.**

2) READ FOR UNDERSTANDING! Studies show children who are read to on a regular basis before kindergarten, start school with a vocabulary nearly 4 times that of children who were not read to as small children! A lower level of vocabulary for kids and adults leads to problems learning, understanding, and

communicating. Adults with lower levels of vocabulary have more emotional and/or anger problems. They also learn less money over their lifetime. Higher vocabulary is only gained through experience, observation, and reading. **You CANNOT be successful without the ability to read above a high school level. The only way to get better at reading, is reading.**

Choosing NOT to pay attention in this class is like choosing to actively frustrate yourself on a daily basis. Your lack of attention will confuse you about what is going on. And typically, when people are confused, they get frustrated. Why would you WANT to do things that frustrate you?

Your Job Behavior Expectations...

The student employee is expected to follow all policies legislated by the School Board and Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School's administration. I expect my students to understand they are in a place of learning and education. I expect that my students won't distract others, use insulting or degrading language, or in general, commit behaviors that make their life or learning more difficult. Complaining doesn't work for me. Yelling doesn't work with me. Being irritating to me or others in my classroom doesn't work with me. **Think about what your want/need and then exhibit behaviors that will work for you to get those goals.**

On plagiarizing...

Assume your neighbor is not as intelligent as you are. Plagiarizing or copying from anyone else will result in an incomplete for the assignment for **both students** and an alternate assignment will be given to each of you. If your only class goal is to LEARN, then copying becomes a REALLY stupid action, right? Plagiarizing from the internet is something many kids do without even realizing it. Reading and re-wording in your own words is a skill you will need to build. I had a student once say she copied everything for a project from the internet "because it's too hard to do it on my own." That's the EXACT REASON you SHOULD do it on your own then. You will be asked to re-do any assignment I suspect was copied OR if I suspect you allowed another student to copy.

Frequently Asked Questions About Other Stuff

❖ **What's your policy on eating in the classroom?**

No eating in my class. From time to time I give candy as rewards. I need you to put the wrappers in the trashcans. A clean room is a happier place to be. **Drinks are allowed (except those brought from off campus).**

❖ **What's your policy on cell phones and other devices?**

For cell phones, and other electronics, I do not allow the use or visibility of these in my class, per *School Board Policy 6426.1 and 6426.4*. No matter our age or intelligence level, it is **more difficult** to learn with distractions. **All** data on learning supports this. Multitasking (dividing attention) leads to decreased performance on all tasks being performed. If I tried to teach while I were texting or listening to music, I wouldn't do either as well. **You will not learn as well dividing your attention between education and your social life.** And your social life isn't going to pay your bills later in life, so choosing that option is **irrational**

behavior. If you are constantly obsessing over your phone, you might have a behavioral addiction to it. The only way to break yourself from your addiction is to remove it from your focus (i.e. away in a bag where you won't know if it's vibrating...a pocket is a really irrational place to put it). If I see a visible electronic device (whether you are using it or not), I will ask for it and I will turn it in per Wake County school policy to Ms. Ordonez in the front office, where your parent can retrieve it later in the day. If you refuse to turn it over, I will contact an administrator to come pick it up. **Either way, you will lose your phone.** The disadvantage to having an admin to come turn it in is additional consequences and my growing dislike of your disrespect and lack of self control. **HINT: The far easier solution to all of this is to keep your phone away from you and on silent.**

On occasion I will allow phones for a learning activity or during free time of remediation for a reward of all work completed. You can ONLY have phones out when I have signaled this by hanging the "electronics okay" sign. Any other time I see your electronic device visible and this sign in NOT up, you will lose your device to the front office. No excuses.

❖ **What's your policy on sleeping through my free, public education?**

If you sleep through lectures, videos, etc, it is not my responsibility to wake you up. If you worry about sleeping, tell your neighbor to wake you up. If I observe you sleeping through any part of class, and there is a graded assignment, you will not get credit for the class activity/grade that day. "Slept" will be marked in Powerschools, and you cannot make up the assignment.

❖ **What's your policy on behavior that disrupts others?**

If you act as if your top priority in class is gaining attention of your peers, or you do not understand that others in the class have a right to learn with minimal distractions, you will also not get credit for the days assignment. "Disrupts" will be marked in Powerschools and you will not be allowed to make up the assignment. All these notations will be marked on your interims and noted to your parent/guardians

Ms. Thrower's Personal Expectations of You

In addition to your main goal of becoming an educated individual, I have high expectations for behaviors in my classroom. Classes can be crowded, students need to be able to focus to learn, so everyone must follow the requirements below. High expectations can be scary for some, but think "go big, or go home." If the only thing that has controlled your behavior in the past is fear of punishments or rewards, you will have a difficult time succeeding in my class. My expectation required you to behavior, work, and self motivate based on logic and intelligence.

- 1. Show the world you have been taught (or are learning) "empathy":** Empathy, unlike anger or sadness, is an emotion that must be taught to you as a child. Empathy means you can put yourself in the situation of someone else and understand his needs or feelings. Talking to a neighbor during class time shows a lack of empathy. If you realized the student you are talking to may want to be learning instead of listening to your story, you would get out of their way and let the other student learn. Holding up class for your attention needs, being late, complaining, etc all show a lack of empathy. Don't worry, thinking you are the center of the universe is somewhat normal at your age, but trust me, you aren't, and those that already realize this are maturing faster than others.

2. **Do your best** to be the mature, enjoyable, positive, fun and thoughtful student your parents hope you are, and you'll be fine. BE AWARE! In high school, immature and ridiculous behavior is unfortunately allowed by law, however, when you get out in the "real" world, rude or ridiculous behavior usually will only serve to run good people out of your life.
3. **Be fearless.** Things in this class WILL be challenging. Don't give up. You CAN do anything as long as you aren't afraid. If you tell me you "didn't read", "didn't do homework", or anything else related to increasing your education, I'm going to tell you that you are afraid. Attack the fear, the challenges, and you will get better at everything!
4. **HAVE GRIT!** Remember the video. People that succeed in life know they can always learn and improve, and understand failure is not permanent!

Absences from Class

- According to Wake County policy, 10 unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the course. (60 FF)
 - It is your responsibility to check my website or get any missed work from a reliable classmate. Let me repeat that: **It is *your* responsibility to check my website or get any missed work from a reliable classmate.** Extra copies of handouts will be in the white folder at the front of the classroom, however, **do not always rely on that. Check the website!** If you are suspended, sick, or otherwise, check the website! If you are in CARE, CHECK THE WEBSITE! If you do not have a computer or printer at home, use what the tax payers of Wake County have given you...Media Center, computer labs, public libraries, and computers in my room are all logical options. I never want to hear the words, "Ms. Thrower, what did I miss in class yesterday?" **It's on the website!**
 - ***It is your responsibility to set up a time to make up tests or come for tutorials. I will not issue an invitation or reminder. There ARE deadlines for test makups.*** After a week, you'll have to do the test remediation on study island. Email me or fill out an appointment slip (provided to you on your classroom desk of self sufficiency). **It is up to YOU to succeed!** There are no makeups for quizzes. You should still do the quiz from www.laurathrower.com to see if you learned the material. You're doing EVERYTHING in this class to LEARN, not for a grade.
-

Some Additional Things You Should Try to Help You Be An Awesome Human Being!

- **Read directions first.** This is one of the simplest things to do, however, I see kids on a daily basis ask questions, confuse themselves, or do unnecessary work because they didn't choose to read directions. It's comical.

- **Find your intrinsic motivation!** People that can self motivate are FAR more successful in life than just “smart people”. If you can teach yourself to motivate, you have already succeeded.
- **“When the going gets tough, the tough get going.”** Ask yourself, when I don’t understand something, do I give up? Or do I find a way to push through? Those who give up on a regular basis, will not succeed in this class and typically don’t do much better in life.
- **SELF ADVOCATE: This means YOU are the only person who can help you.** Teachers aren’t mind readers. If you are struggling, use tutorials, set up an appointment for extra help, research the web...you may not know all the answers in life, *but if you can find a way to find the answers...*you will go farther than most people around you.
- Give your attention to the class every day. Contrary to what teenagers think, **attention** is what helps you learn, *not* interest. Things ARE boring when you do not have the basic knowledge to understand concepts. You can fix your own problems of boredom by TRYING to learn more about the world around you.
Something to think about: any job you will get if you don’t have a high school diploma WILL be boring. It gets really old to take orders for the rest of your life.
- **Please don’t bring negativity or hostility into my classroom.** Positive people are fun to be around and make others have a good day. Be THAT person.
- Make sure you take good notes, pay attention, and complete all assignments to the best of your ability. **SHOW YOURSELF WHAT YOU ARE CAPABLE OF, and you will succeed.**

“Those that don’t learn from the past are doomed to repeat it.” – wise old saying

“Only boring people get bored.” – Ms. Thrower

“Everything is negotiable.” – Ms. Thrower

BY FRIDAY, HAVE THIS PAGE SIGNED AND RETURNED TO ME WITH YOUR CLASSROOM DONATION!

PARENTS!!!! PLEASE FILL OUT AN ONLINE PARENT SURVEY AT WWW.LAURATHROWER.COM UNDER THE PARENT INFORMATION PAGE. SCHOOL DATA IS NOT ALWAYS CORRECT!

These signatures certify that:

1. We have received a copy of, read, and understood STUDENT EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK, which includes my grading information and supply list, and CLASSROOM EMPLOYEE EXPECTATIONS. Student should file all these handouts in his or her portfolio binder for reference. NEVER LOSE THIS PACKET! WOULD YOU LOSE YOUR JOB TRAINING MANUAL?
2. I am aware I need to bring one of the items listed on page 1 by Tuesday, January 14th or student will be expected to donate 45 minutes of time to clean or organize our classroom community.
3. Both my parent/guardian and myself will keep on top of my grades by checking Powerschools on a regular basis.

I have also visited (or will visit) Ms. Thrower's website and understand what is expected of me as a parent or guardian.

_____ (PRINT *student name*)

_____ (*student signature*)

_____ (*student email address*)

_____ (PRINT *parent name*)

_____ (*parent/guardian signature and date*) _____

_____ (*parent/guardian email address*)

_____ (*parent/guardian best phone number*)

You and your parent/guardian should sign the acknowledgment above and make sure the parent email is accurate.

Have a great semester! I'm excited to be with you on your path to learning in my class!

**OPEN HOUSE IS _____, AT _____ pm.
COME MEET ME! AN INVOLVED PARENT MEANS A SUCCESSFUL STUDENT!**