

# CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

## MS. THROWER

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Location: Trailer 1708

Planning Period: 4th

After School Tutorials and Detentions: Mondays

Additional School Tutorials and Make Up Work: By Appointment Only

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### **Daily Required Materials: I have NEVER had an organized student fail this course!**

- **Writing Utensils** (pen and pencil are required *and* a highlighter is highly recommended). Why do successful students use highlighters? \_\_\_\_\_

I do not keep pens or pencils for kids. If I find them on the floor, they are thrown in a “community” box on your table, but there is no guarantee these are there every day. **If you can’t solve the basic step of coming to class with a pen and pencil each day, you will seriously need to evaluate your organizations skills.**

- **Three ring binder with notebook paper.** You should have a 3 ring binder where you will build your portfolio. Keeping a portfolio with all assignments (in order listed on the board) ensures success for your final passing grade. This work is all part of your graded portfolio and if you lose it, you won’t have much of a portfolio to help your grade. **If you can’t keep these papers together in this basic format, again, you will need to seriously evaluate your organizational skills.**
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### **Classroom Expectations**

The student is expected to follow all policies legislated by the School Board and Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School’s administration. As for cell phones, and other electronics, I strictly enforce this in my class. No matter our age or intelligence level, it is more difficult to learn with distractions and multitasking leads to less attention. If this concept bothers you, you should ask yourself, **“is my constant desire to check my cell phone during class an addiction or a need?”** You may find this need of yours is an addiction and a bad habit to break. You are losing out on an education with your addiction, so if you fit this category, you might want to re-evaluate your priorities. If I see an 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 ask you one more time (some people are slower to make wise decisions), and if you again refuse, I will write you a referral and let our administrators do their job with you later. All of this effort and distraction to other kids learning may seem incredibly unnecessary; however, people with addictions often make poor choices, so this policy is in writing for a reason. I can’t teach effectively while texting or listening to music, and you can’t learn while texting or listening to music. So there are NEVER any exceptions to this in my class. See *School Board Policy 6426.1 and 6426.4* for more detail.

## Ms. Thrower's Personal Expectations of You

**In order to run an efficient class where the skill of learning and self improvement takes place, distractions from students seeking attention or love they lack elsewhere in their lives simply cannot not be tolerated.**

While disruptive behaviors can vary, a good rule of thumb says that if you personally feel like adults are always telling you “what to do” and how to behave, you probably aren’t showing people that you actually KNOW how to behave or what to do. If you feel like you have plenty of freedom and responsibility given to you, that is probably because you have earned it by showing adults you are mature and can handle freedom, so they leave you alone for the most part. Basically, if you constantly act like a fool, people will probably start to treat you that way. If you act like you have your stuff “together”, then people for the most part will leave you alone to run your own life.

### **Basic Student Etiquette**

1. Respect everyone in the classroom as well as yourself. **Everyone's opinion is of value, not just yours.** And believe it or not, not EVERY thought that enters your head is worth saying out loud.
2. You will be able to eat and drink in class *on occasion*, but only if as a class you **earn** this privilege. As soon as I begin finding wrappers and trash in my desks, this privilege will be revoked for everyone. Trashcans are here for a reason. If you don't know that reason, ask someone. **No eating or drinking when using computers under any circumstances.**
3. 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. Did you know that **when you copy, you don't learn anything? And who wants to be at a 10<sup>th</sup> grade level mentally the rest of their life?**
4. Maintain a plan of attack to succeed in class and in life: Be here and **engaged**, be on time, be prepared and accept responsibility for yourself. Being a “together” person is an attractive quality to have in life.
5. As long as you turn in **completed** work on time and take advantage of opportunities to improve your work, you **will not** fail my class unless you choose to. I personally guarantee that. You are in school to learn how to be your personal best, creatively and logically. Your final grade is a reflection of your personal best. Don't worry about the grade, focus on doing **your** best. Your best will earn you the A.

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## Classroom Consequences

**Because all students are unique, consequences will be decided on as situations occur.**

Often times, **you** will assist me in coming up with your own reasonable consequences if you choose to seek negative attention and disrupt other students' learning. **I will not take class time to debate these consequences.** If you choose the behavior, you will have to accept the consequences just like self-aware adults do. Not accepting responsibility for your actions might be "cute" in high school, but in the real world, people just think you're "sad". In high school, ridiculous behavior is tolerated by law...when you get out in the world, rude, immature, or ridiculous behavior usually will only serve to run good people out of your life.

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## 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 quizzes and tests; I will not issue an invitation or reminder.*** This concept is often difficult for kids who are used to parents and others doing things for them. It is up to YOU in my classroom to succeed!
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## What Successful Students Know:

- **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. **If you ask a question that you could have found in the directions, yes...you should be embarrassed.**
- **Self motivate!** 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. 100% of students who fail my class, **fail because they did not do the work.** Amazing, but true.
- **"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. The game of chess is boring to me, because I don't understand it. How can I fix that? LEARN THE GAME!. 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.**
- **Please don't bring negativity or hostility into my classroom. If you want to live the rest of your days angry and annoyed, feel free, but your energy in this class is contagious...and we need it to be positive!**
- Make sure you take good notes, pay attention, and complete all assignments to the best of your ability. SHOW ME WHAT YOU ARE CAPABLE OF, and you will succeed.

*"It's better to be interested, than interesting." – John Gardener*

*"Only boring people get bored." – Abe Lincoln*

*"Everything is negotiable." – Ms. Thrower*

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**PARENTS!!!!**

**PLEASE FILL OUT AN ONLINE PARENT SURVEY AT [WWW.LAURATHROWER.COM](http://WWW.LAURATHROWER.COM)  
UNDER THE PARENT INFORMATION PAGE. SCHOOL DATA IS NOT ALWAYS  
CORRECT!**

**OPEN HOUSE IS THURSDAY, JANUARY 12<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:30 pm.  
COME MEET ME! AN INVOLVED PARENT MEANS A SUCCESSFUL STUDENT.**

**STUDENT/PARENTS ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:** Tear off this page, have your parent or guardian sign and return with your signature.

These signatures certify that:

We have received a copy of, read, and understood **CLASSROOM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES, GRADING POLICY, and SYLLABUS** for Ms. Thrower's class. (HANDOUTS A, B, and C). Student should file all handouts in his or her portfolio binder for reference.

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*)

\_\_\_\_\_ (*parent/guardian signature and date*) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (*parent/guardian email address*)

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 work with you!