

Miss Holmstead's Class Syllabus and Policies

STEM ENGLISH 2018-2019

EHOLMSTEAD@LWSD.ORG

ROOMS 214, 121, AND 221

- *Treat your classmates and teacher with respect and compassion*
- *Participate and engage in class activities*
- *Do your best work honestly*

INFORMATION

Welcome to STEM English!

This class will focus on applying the critical thinking skills from English and history classes to STEM challenges. We will be doing a lot of discussions, debates, activities and projects. We will also be working a lot with other classes. For example, we'll collaborate with the forensics class in our criminology unit, the AP Language and Composition class on our mini-debates, the biology class in our mythology lesson, the biomedicine and civics classes in our ethics unit, and the psychology class in our short story lesson. Finally, we will be supporting students with the writing and presenting aspects of their out-of-class competitions

What will the overarching topics be?

We will have five main themes in this class:

- 1) Literary and historical problem solving
- 2) Persuasive speaking and writing
- 3) Real-world philosophy and ethics
- 4) Effective research skills
- 5) Understandable, audience-appropriate scientific writing

What will students be graded on?

Students will be graded on work in a wide variety of mediums. All grades will be in one of the following categories approved by the school district: activities, projects, writing, research, effective communication, strategic thinking, and participation and cooperation.

How can parents keep up with what we are doing in class?

I have a class page on PowerSchool. On the class page, there will be a short overview of each lesson (keep in mind most lessons cover multiple class days) that answers the following questions:

1. What are we doing?
3. What STEM skills and 21st century competencies are we practicing?

Wednesday Workdays

Wednesdays will be set aside explicitly for students to work on the research, reading, writing, presentation, and speech-making aspects for projects and competitions with my assistance. We will work together to hone the English aspect of these STEM projects.

How can parents know (promptly) if there are any assignments a student has not turned in?

I will work hard to make sure Skyward up to date. If a student has failed to turn in an assignment, there will be an M in the online grade book.

Office Hours and Communication

I will have office hours for a half an hour before and after school each day. Before school, I will be in room 209B. After school, I will be in room 221. Students do not need an appointment to come and see me during this time, but can make one to ensure that they are helped promptly. Parents, please contact me ahead of time. I am also easily reachable via email, which I check and respond to during work hours at eholmstead@lwsd.org. I respond to most emails in 24 hours, but it may take 48 hours during the busiest times of the year.

Grades

This classes uses the STEM High School grading scale.

A	100.0–90.0%	B+	89.9–87.0%	C+	79.9–77.0%	NC (No Credit)	≥69.9%
		B	86.9–83.0%	C	76.9–73.0%		
		B-	82.9–80.0%	C-	72.9–70.0%		

POLICIES

Class Materials

You need to bring a binder, paper, and a pencil or pen to class every day, along with the text we are reading. You will also need to purchase a composition book that you will leave in the classroom for warm-ups

Absences

It is your responsibility, not mine, to find out what you missed and make it up if you miss class. You are also responsible for contacting your absentee buddy for help **before you talk to me**.

Absentee buddy name and contact info:

Cell Phone and Headphones Policy

When you enter my classroom, you must put your cell phone in the container at the front of the room. This is how I will take attendance. We will occasionally use phones for research and

classroom activities, in which case you will be directed to get them and return them when we are finished. If you use your phone in class when not explicitly told to do so, I will confiscate it and give it to the front office. If this happens more than once your parent or guardian must get it back from the office. Headphones are to be out of sight and are subject to the same confiscation policy as cell phones.

Late Work

I have a strict no late work policy. There is **no** credit for late work. There are only exceptions in the case of serious illness or family emergencies. You must turn in your work on time to receive credit for it.

Controversial Topics

As we read literature, essays, and articles, we will discuss some controversial topics that come up in these pieces in a mature and respectful way. You will read things that you (and I) disagree with. Practicing thoughtful debate is part of becoming a good person and citizen and you are expected to handle such material appropriately. If you or your parent feels uncomfortable with a particular text or topic, please contact me directly.

Plagiarism and Cheating

As per the Student Right's and Responsibilities Handbook, plagiarism and cheating will always result in a zero, parent contact, and a referral to the administration for discipline. Confusion over plagiarism is not an excuse for what is both an ethical and legal violation. Ask if you are confused.

Online Discussion and Submissions

You are required to join our course's discussion board on PowerSchool, and submit some assignments through Turnitin.com. We will go over how to use it in class, but if you are confused or need help, ask before the assignment is due. Confusion over how it works is not an excuse for missing a deadline.

Can I Print Homework Out During Class On the Due Date?

No.

How Can I Improve My Grade?

Turn in your work on time, participate, and come in for help when you need it.

Signatures

I have read these policies and I understand them. I agree to abide by them.

Student Name:

Student Signature:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Parent/Guardian Signature: