

Welcome to Basic English: Eighth Grade

Mr. Briggs, Room P-25, Education Specialist, cbriggs@chicousd.org

I am glad that you are in my class, and I look forward to getting to know you!

The goals of this class are as follows:

- Increase sentence writing abilities by adding description, higher level vocabulary, elaboration, and more complexity to sentences.
 - Create a safe classroom environment for students where they feel safe, like they belong, and can engage.
 - Improve paragraph writing skills by focusing on organization, structure, and content.
 - Incorporate reading into our writing to strengthen claims by properly selecting and citing text evidence.
 - Support students with work in their other academic courses that require ELA skills.
 - Build confidence in the writing process to ensure students are able to use these skills in variety of contexts.
- Each student will have a writing composition book that will stay in the class at all times (I have already provided this). This will contain writing samples and tools that they may use throughout the school year. Students will also need a charged Chromebook.
- Students will be given a citizenship grade which will account for 33% of their grade. They will earn points in this area by keeping up, participating, giving full effort, being respectful, and being prepared for class.
- The grade distribution is as follows:
- ◆ 34% Citizenship
 - ◆ 33% Assessments
 - ◆ 33% Classwork
- No homework will be given for this class; **UNLESS** students do not complete their classwork, or have missing or make-up assignments to complete. Students may work at home and complete any related class work, IXL, or read from their assigned class book.

*Students will take English Language Arts diagnostics through IXL at intervals of beginning, middle, and end of year. Mr. Briggs will conference with other English teachers and counselors to determine the best courses/elective for student's next semester.

Success English Expectations:

- Be ready to learn.
 - Have all needed supplies before the bell rings.
 - Sit up straight and make eye contact.
 - Have ears open and ready to focus.
- Have a respectful attitude.
 - Listen respectfully to the teacher, aides, substitutes and classmates.
 - Respond in a respectful when talking to staff and other students.
 - Engage with the lesson to the best of your ability.
- Try your hardest.
 - Answer questions and do work to the best of your ability.
 - Focus on having a growth mindset, or working to develop one.
 - Remember that no one is perfect, and we will all be wrong many times. The most important thing...is to do your best and try!
- Respond responsibly.
 - Ask questions about missing assignments or any make-up work.

- Demonstrate respect for the learning environment and others.
 - Discuss appropriate times to meet with staff or teacher to receive additional support.
- ★ In the instance that students are not following class and school expectations, students may be asked to step outside briefly so that we can have a discussion regarding appropriate behavior, classroom expectations, and school rules. The goal is to help them learn new behaviors, and get kids back engaged in the learning process as soon as possible. If issues continue to occur, the student may be asked to meet with admin/appropriate staff. All related behaviors will be documented through Educlimber, and parents will be notified about any ongoing or significant issues.

Success English Units of Study

*The main focus of this class, will be writing solid argumentative paragraphs:

- Topic Sentence
- Textual Evidence using the CER method
 - Counterclaims
 - Transition Words
- Concluding Sentences



Other Important Areas of Focus for Success English:
Complete Sentences
Periods and End Punctuation
Capitalization
Fragments and Run-Ons
Transition Words
Commas
Synonyms
Apostrophes
Writing Formal Emails
Writing Prompts
Grade Level Books



Frequently, students will complete a grade check. This will alert them to any missing assignments and successes. I will give students pockets of time to work on these assignments, but the completion is the student's responsibility. Please email me at any time if you would like to know what assignments you/your student are missing.

*The last 10-15 minutes of each Friday may be a Fun Friday. This depends on the the class' weekly and daily behavior prior. This may include, but is not limited to, games, art, other coursework, or silent reading.

Student Name _____ Parent Signature _____