**FAQ**

These are the most frequently asked questions, along with links to articles that will explore the reasoning behind the policies. Please email me any questions that are not answered here.

**How can I get help?**

Office hours are every Thursday from 8:30 am until school starts. You do not need an appointment to attend office hours- they are open to everyone. If you would like to meet with me at a different time, just email and make an appointment.

**What is the late work policy in the class?**

Assignments that are turned in after the due date do not receive credit. I require students to turn in something when I collect assignments in class, even if it is incomplete or just a paper explaining why you did not complete the assignment.

<https://teachersforpeace.org/benefits-homework-time/>

<https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/being-on-time-for-work>

**What should I do if I am absent?**

The agenda is in the Google classroom daily. If you are absent, please copy the agenda, then get the assignments from the teacher. You will have one day for every day that you are absent to turn in your work. For example, if you are absent one day, then you have one day to do the make-up work. If you are gone for three days, then you have three days to make-up the work. I will also have office hours every Thursday morning at 8:30. You can make-up the work with me during the first office hour after your return.

**Why is the spelling graded too?**

Even in the age of computer spell-check and auto correct, we still write notes and emails. Students who continue to spell incorrectly embed the incorrect spelling in their brain and this affects the impression they make on their teachers, professors and eventually their employers.

<https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20170807-the-true-importance-of-good-spelling>

<https://www.kellogg.edu/upload/eng151text/chapter/text-the-importance-of-spelling/index.html>

**How is the agenda graded?**

The agenda is graded as a grammar quiz. Since we are writing the agenda every day, I use it to teach grammar rules. For example, students know that sentences end with punctuation, but they will often answer questions without punctuation, because they are focused on the content. So, I put the agenda in complete sentences to reinforce the habit of using end punctuation. I have started with simple sentences, but we are moving into compound and then complex sentences. Because I am giving you the agenda, it should be perfect at the end of the week. It is the easiest grammar quiz you will ever take.

<https://us.elevateeducation.com/news/parents/practice-does-not-make-perfect>

**What is the restroom policy in the class?**

Students are encouraged to use the restroom during passing period, before school or at lunch. Unless it is a true emergency, I prefer students to wait until after instruction has been given to use the restroom. Students check out through the computer app and excessive restroom use could result in lowered citizenship grades. Please tell me if there is a medical reason that requires frequent restroom use.

**Why can’t I drink water in the classroom?**

Students **can** drink water in class except when I am giving whole class instruction. While I am instructing students, I encourage complete attention. I do not even want you to write notes while I talk- I will give you time for that after. Listening carefully is an important skill and I want to ensure that all students understand the directions and the concepts. I also encourage students to drink water outside before class starts to protect computers and books as much as possible from spills.

**Why do I have to read every day?**

The benefits of free choice reading include a sense of empowerment because you get to select the book, an increased level of empathy, a decreased stress level and a stronger brain. I encourage students to choose material that intrigues them and to set reading goals. I hope that even the most reluctant reader will find something to read in my class.

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20190523-does-reading-fiction-make-us-better-people>

<https://hbr.org/2020/03/the-case-for-reading-fiction>

<https://greatergood.berkeley.edu/article/item/how_reading_fiction_can_shape_our_real_lives>

[Benefits of Reading Books: For Your Physical and Mental Health (healthline.com)](https://www.healthline.com/health/benefits-of-reading-books)

**Where are the grades?**

Grades are posted on Aeries about every three weeks. Students should use their agenda to check due dates. If you wait until they see the grade in Aeries, it is usually too late to make-up. Parents, please email me any time you have questions about your student’s progress.