

August 27, 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is my pleasure to welcome you and your child to Edna Karr High School. My name is Meg Winters. I was born and raised in New Orleans. I can't imagine a better way to contribute to the future of this wonderful city than to teach her youth. I am excited to be endeavoring on this journey with you and all of our students.

I am looking forward to getting to know you and your child over the upcoming school year. In order for your child to have a successful year both personally and academically at Karr, I will need your support and involvement. I hope this letter will help you assist your child in having a smooth and productive year of high school. In my class, your child can expect to work hard, read and write constantly, and learn valuable skills.

Course Outline: My ultimate goal is for your child to become a lover of literature and a life-long reader, in addition to helping him or her excel on tests for graduation and admission to college. The following is a general guide for the course curriculum. Each unit will last approximately six weeks.

Unit 1: Introduction (Class rules, procedures, icebreakers, goals, diagnostics)

Unit 2: Short Stories

Unit 3: Nonfiction

Unit 4: Drama

Unit 5: The Novel

Unit 6: Poetry

Unit 7: The Epic

Grading Policy: Your child's grade in this class will depend on many factors, including his/her willingness to participate, progress in reading and writing, and performance on tests and exams. Edna Karr has adopted Power School which should be available shortly, so that you can keep up with your student's progress in class.

The grades are broken down as follows:

25% Final Exam

25% Tests and Quizzes

25% Attendance, Participation, Class work, and Homework

25% Written Assignments (including the freshman research paper and visual project)

Books and Materials: We will be reading novels, short stories, essays, and articles in our classroom. Students will also need to bring a pen or pencil, manila folder, folder, and notebook. Each student has received an *Elements of Literature* textbook to keep at home. They will be required to return them at the end of the year. The price of the textbook, should it be lost, is \$70.

Class Rules:

1. Be respectful of your classmates and teacher.
2. Get to class on time.
3. Ask permission to be excused.
4. Come prepared with all supplies daily.
5. Raise your hand to speak.
6. Follow all school policies.

School Policies

Tardiness: All students who are tardy will receive a School Wide detention (SWD). Uniforms: Students are to wear standard Edna Karr uniforms. I will check uniforms periodically and give SWDs to those out of uniform. I am particularly harsh on droopy pants and shirts that are not tucked in. Cell phones: If I see a student with a cell phone, I will take it and give it to the office. The administration will then hold the phone for two weeks.

Consequences

1. Warning
2. Teacher Detention held in the morning
3. Written assignment signed by guardian
4. Parent phone call
5. Discipline referral

Homework and Study Habits: Your child will be assigned homework on a regular basis, at least three days a week. Your child is expected to complete all of his/her homework. Please make sure that they are spending a significant amount of time studying.

Makeup Work

Please provide me with a valid excuse, either a note from home or a doctor's note, the day that your child returns to class. I will give each student makeup work and tests. Tests will be given in the mornings before school, so each student will have to plan accordingly. Also, please note that if any student cuts class, he or she will under no circumstances be allowed to make up work.

Academic Honesty Policy: Karr Students are expected to complete all assignments and all tests/exams honestly. For the purposes of this policy, cheating is defined as "accepting or providing work or information that is not one's own." The full outline of consequences for offenses is outlined in the student handbook.

Planning Period and Tutoring Hours: My planning period is from 1:00-2:00. I am dedicated to helping your child succeed at Karr, so I offer additional tutoring sessions. On Mondays, I will be available before school from 7:45-8:30. On Tuesdays and Wednesdays, I will remain after school until 4:30.

Freshman Parent Night is Wednesday, September 10th, at 6:00. Please join us. Also, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Meg Winters

mwinters@algierscharterschools.org

School Phone Number: (504) 373-6268