



Pin Oak Middle School
Cluster 6C
English - C. Geraci

Dear Parents,

I am very excited that school is back in session and hope you and your child feel the same. I am exceptionally thrilled to be teaching English this year.

Supplies For my class your child will need the following: one composition book, a folder with brads and pockets, dividers, blue or black ink pens, a steady supply of notebook paper. We will set up folders for my class the first week of school. Students may only use a pencil when working on a rough draft.

Grades All tests, projects and portfolio checks are 40% of your child's total average. Homework and daily work are each 20%. Quizzes and Caught Ya's count together as 20%. Please check the Pin Oak website at www.pinoak.us to see when progress reports and report cards will be distributed.

Tests, Projects, Portfolios I will give an exam over the GUMP (grammar, usage, mechanics, punctuation) skills we studied about once every six weeks. There are no projects planned for the first semester at this time, but that may change. Your child will keep a writing portfolio in my room. He/She will only be allowed to take home specific pieces, never the entire portfolio, until the end of the year. This portfolio will contain brainstorm exercises, rough drafts, editing/revising remarks and final copies. Since this is a test grade, students who fail to keep up with their portfolio are in danger of failing my class.

Homework Most weeks homework will be due on Friday. I post homework on my front board and the 6C website at <http://poms6c.wordpress.com>. Your child is responsible for copying the homework off the board into his/her planner. When I pick up the homework, I will stamp your child's planner. I will take late homework up to the Friday following the due date, however students will incur a 30 point penalty.

Daily work Any work we do in class must be turned in the same class. If we run out of time, I may ask students to turn in incomplete papers and pass them out at a later date to finish. The only exception to this are the Caught Ya's which are graded separately and which must be complete 7 minutes after the tardy bell.

Quizzes I will give quizzes over spelling and/or vocabulary when we finish a unit. Usually this is about every two weeks. I will avoid giving quizzes on Fridays if at all possible. Once the students have started a spelling or vocabulary unit, I will assess their readiness and let them know the date of the quiz. Quiz dates will also be posted on the website.

Contact Information I return phone calls during my conference time at 1st and 4th periods. My phone number is 713-295-6500 ext. 400. The best way to reach me is by email at cgeraci@houstonisd.org. If you would like to set up a conference, please send an email to our cluster leader, Mr. Edquid.

Parents, please sign below and send back the bottom portion so I know you have read this newsletter. If you have any questions, please phone or send me an email.

Thank you,

Carolyn Geraci

Cut along this line.

Yes! I have read the information about my child's English class.

Parent Signature

Student Name