



Welcome!



I am so glad you chose to join me on this learning adventure! You may be taking this course for extra credit, to pass and earn high school credit or simply because you have to. Regardless of your reason, I am here for one reason: to make sure you learn. My job is to ensure you succeed and as we work together through these modules, you will find clear instructions on how to succeed. So, if you are ready to show off your best work, then let's get started!

A Little About Your Teacher:

My name is Mrs. Bennett and I am a National Board Certified Teacher in English Language Arts/Early Adolescence. I grew up in Waterford, Michigan and graduated with honors, earning my bachelor's degree in English Education: 7-12 from Cedarville University in Ohio. I also earned my master's degree in Reading from SUNY Albany and have been teaching for 12 years. In my free time, I enjoy cuddling and playing with my son, making homemade baby food, shopping, keeping a journal and writing poetry. I live in Webster, New York with my husband, son, and our yellow lab, Ducky. Four words that describe me best are: intuitive, dependable, problem solver and leader.

What You Can Expect From Me:

-Timely responses: Your answers, questions, and individual thoughts are very important to me! I love teaching online because I have a chance to get to know you and make sure you personally master all of the important information you need to learn. I can only do this by getting back to you in a timely manner. With that in mind, I will let you know if I will be out of town or unavailable on certain days to respond to your posts. Otherwise, you can count on me to check your work at least once a day between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

-Honesty: I want you to succeed! To do so, I will be honest with you. You will find I provide straightforward and honest reminders such as: You need to meet the set deadlines. You need to be organized. You need to ask me when you have questions. When you make these positive choices, you are most likely to succeed. You have the power to pass this course and I am here to help you do just that! Honesty is a key component and I promise to be honest and respectful toward you at all times.

-Care: I want to get to know more about you and what makes you tick. How can I help you learn? Do you learn best by seeing, hearing, a hands-on approach? Do you like to have a choice in your projects or would you rather follow specific directions to complete an assignment? As your teacher, I feel I can help you master the course information by knowing more about you. You will find that I ask you to post answers to different questions throughout the course. For example, "If you were an animal, what would you be and why?" This may sound silly but, believe it or not, you can learn a lot about a person based on such answers! I care about your success and will work hard as your coach to help you pass this course.

What I Will Expect From You:

-Timeliness: You must meet provided deadlines to succeed. I've tried to provide fair deadlines that keep you organized and on track. If you are having trouble meeting a deadline, the best choice is to alert me to this as soon as possible. Let me know how I can help you complete the activity. Again, honesty and communication are key!

-Your Best Writing: Since we are writing online, you have numerous tools at your fingertips (spell check, thesaurus, word count, paragraphing) to help you write better. I expect you to use these tools and expect that you will check over your answers before posting in any format (messages to me, group work, essays, short responses, etc.) All of your writing should be formal (not relaxed, not IM style) and appropriate. All students will respect each other and provide positive feedback at all times. This is considered your best writing.

-Genuine Investment and Effort: You have the right to choose to do your best. So, why wouldn't you? You will find that I put my all into my work and I look for the same from you. Sometimes in life, we may not love what have to do. I do not love all parts of my job. However, I do every part of my job to the best of my ability. I look forward to seeing the same mindset from you. Besides helping you become a better reader and writer, I will provide ideas to stay positive and help you develop great work habits as we move through the course.

Grading Policy: (dictated by the specific course)

Communication:

Communication is the KEY! You must log in to the course regularly and add to the discussions. If you feel you are falling behind, your parent has a question, your teacher has a concern, or you need me to clarify something- these are all reasons to contact me immediately. You do not have to post such information for the whole class but can send a message directly to me. Start communicating from day one to make sure you get the most out of this course!

Additional Resources:

The Seven Habits for Highly Effective Teens by S. Covey <http://www.seancovey.com/index.html>

iNACOL's Standards:

Did you know there are specific standards I must meet as your online teacher? These standards were created by the International Association for K-12 Online Learning and are called "National Standards for Quality Online Teaching." While I always strive to meet every standard, below are a few that should be most evident in this course. Please read the standards and think about:

- 1- ***What learning activities I may have planned to help us meet the standard.***
- 2- ***What will be expected of you, as the student, as a result of each standard?***

Standard A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The online teacher knows and understands the role of online learning in preparing students for the global community they live in, both now and in the future.
Standard B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The online teacher knows and understands the importance of interaction in an online course and the role of varied communication tools in supporting interaction.
Standard C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The online teacher knows and understands the

	<p>techniques and applications of online instructional strategies based on current research and practice (e.g. discussion, student-directed learning, collaborative learning, lecture, project-based learning, forum, small group work.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The online teacher knows and understands techniques to create an environment that will engage, welcome, and reach each individual learner.
Standard D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The online teacher knows and understands techniques for using appropriate communication in support of student engagement through prompt and regular feedback and setting and communication high expectations. ▪ The online teacher knows and understands the need to establish criteria for appropriate online behavior for both teacher and students.
Standard G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The online teacher knows and understands the implementation of online assessment measures and materials in ways to insure instrument validity and reliability.
Standard H	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The online teacher knows and understands the process of continuous evaluation of students to include formative and summative assessments and student feedback, including poll and surveys that reflect student learning progress throughout the course.
Standard K	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The online teacher is able to create assignments, projects, and assessments that are aligned with students' different visual, auditory, and hands-on way of learning.

