**To Ms. Nastasi’s English Classroom for College Preparation!**

 **Introduction:** It is time to help you prepare for college or a career path! The ultimate goal of this class is to reinforce the skills needed to pass a college entrance exam. At the end of 20 weeks you will be taking the OCC Accuplacer exam. This exam determines your Math and English ability and could make the difference between taking a credited or non-credited freshman class. The skills that you will utilize in this class will be the skills necessary to be successful in college courses; therefore, this class will be rigorous and demanding. I look forward to working with all of you!

**Goals:**
 **Speaking/Listening/Language:**
 \* Students will use digital media and visual displays to enhance an oral presentation. They will
 also, deliver an organized presentation with a clear reasoning and distinct sources of support.
 \*Students will be able to collaborate in group discussion with peers to set clear goals and evaluate whether they have met stated goals.
 \*Students will demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar while
 applying knowledge of language functions in different contexts to assist in writing and reading
 comprehension.

**Reading**
 \*Students will determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text.
 \*Students will be able to cite textual evidence to support a claim being drawn from an
 informational work. Also, they will be able to develop factual and evaluative questions for
 further exploration.
 \*Students will determine an author’s purpose in a text; analyze how style, content, and text
 structure contribute to the work.

 **Writing**
 \*Students will write persuasive pieces that engage the reader, use precise language, and
 satisfying evidence to support specific point of view.
 \*Students will demonstrate knowledge of technological use to assist in the production, publishing, and updating of personal work.
 \* Students will be able to synthesize multiple sources of information to write a research project that answers a specific question.

**Materials:** 1 inch binder, loose leaf paper, one composition notebook, index card

**Expectations:** I have high expectations for every single one of you and together we will work to achieve the set goals of this course. You are seniors in high school and therefore I expect you to take responsibility for your own education; you must put forth effort in order to succeed. I have an open door policy and will always be available to provide extra help when needed. \*You are expected to be responsible and turn in an assignment the day it is due. Keep in mind that this is a college prep course; therefore, you will not receive credit for any late work.

Your quarterly grades will be based on a total points system:
\* Quizzes = 50 points \* Homework = 20 points \* Writing = 50 points
 \* Research = 100 points \*Presentations = 50 points

**Absences and Tardiness:**

If a student misses a day of instruction it is completely their responsibility to get any missed notes and assignments. This should not be done during class time. Before or after class is perfectly acceptable. Work turned in late due to an excused absence will receive full credit if turned in promptly upon returning.

Tardiness will not be tolerated. After any student has been tardy three times in 10 weeks they will receive an after school detention in my classroom for the following day. Every subsequent tardy will have similar results. If a student does not attend the after school detention they will be subject to further disciplinary action including, but not limited to; in school suspension or disciplinary referrals.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

 My name is Maria Nastasi and I am a member of the English department at LaFayette Jr./Sr. High School. I would like to send out a warm welcome to you and your student; I look forward to meeting and getting to know every student in my classroom as well as their family. I believe that a strong connection should be developed between school and the home environment. The communication that I have with you will positively benefit your student’s performance in the classroom. I will work closely with each student in order to ensure academic success. I encourage creativity and will facilitate your student’s learning, exploration and discovery of the English Language Arts.

 If there is any information about your child or family that you would like to share please email me at mnastasi@lafayetteschools.org. My website will be updated frequently to ensure consistent communication. I hope to meet you soon and I cannot wait to learn and grow with all of my students throughout the school.

Sincerely,

Maria Nastasi