


Mrs. Tiara Ferrell, B. A. E.

Conyers Middle School
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Words - so innocent and powerless as they are, as standing in a dictionary, how potent for good and evil they become in the hands of one who knows how to combine them.

—Nathaniel Hawthorne

My goal for our class is this: I want you to become avid readers and confident writers in a nurturing environment that is interactive and dynamic, a place where we all can speak up and share our ideas and our writing. This requires daily commitment from each of us—achieving nearly perfect attendance, arriving with all supplies and completed homework assignments, engaging in class discussion, taking risks with assignments to go beyond what you have always done, and accepting responsibility for your own learning and growth.

These **supplies** are essential for this class (and will probably need to be restocked throughout the year):

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Pencils (mechanical) | <input type="checkbox"/> Glue (not glue sticks) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pens (blue or black) | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mead 5-Star 1-Subject college ruled notebook
(1 per quarter) | <input type="checkbox"/> 3-hole-punch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colored pencils, markers, and highlighters | <input type="checkbox"/> Pencil pouch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pencil sharpener with lid | <input type="checkbox"/> A flash drive (or access online storage) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A CMS agenda | <input type="checkbox"/> Colored copy paper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors | |

Students are expected to turn in all assignments on time. However, sometimes life does get in the way. **Late work** must be turned in to the teacher with a handwritten letter based on the class template. Work will not be accepted more than one week late. If the student is absent from class, it is his/her responsibility to obtain any missed assignments. Students have one day for each day they were absent to make up all assignments issued during their absence. Any assignments given before an absence are due on the original due date.

Cheating and plagiarism in any form is not tolerated and such work will be given a permanent zero for the assignment as well as an office referral.

Extra credit is offered occasionally throughout the year and may be obtained for going above and beyond on a given assignment. There are also two standing assignment that can be located on my website under Electronic Handouts which can be done each nine weeks.

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The **class rules** are simple: be respectful and be responsible. All expectations fall under these key criteria. Minor violations are subject to the school's discipline policy: warning→ silent lunch→parent contact / detention→office referral→ behavior contract. Severe violations will receive office referrals.

Tutorials are available for this class. Please speak with Ms. Ferrell in advance to schedule a tutorial time after school. Transportation is not provided.

This year, our class will have the opportunity to attend a **field trip** to see *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare on Wednesday, September 25th. All students are strongly encouraged to attend as it will be both a fun and educational experience that was thoroughly enjoyed last year. Permission forms will be sent out in late August. The cost of the trip will be **\$25** and all forms and funds will be **due by 9/12**.

School-home **communication** is a vital tool in student success, and it is also a two-way street. Parents and students can use I-Parent to view their child's up-to-date grades online. Ms. Ferrell's website provides valuable information as do the emails Ms. Ferrell sends out regularly (so please be sure to provide an accurate and easily readable email address). (Students will also be expected to keep up with their **agendas**, documenting what is covered in class each day as well as any homework. Students should always have their agendas with them.) Specific questions and concerns can be emailed to Mrs. Ferrell at any time. While a phone call is also an option, an email will yield faster results. Parents are encouraged to use these tools to stay up-to-date on their child's progress and to speak with teachers immediately whenever they have a question or concern.

Ms. Ferrell's class is considered a higher level course and does come with these **general expectations**: Students will maintain an 80% average or higher. Students will study, discuss, research, and be held accountable for learning advanced concepts. Their studies will be more rigorous, more in-depth, and broader in scope than average classes in order to begin preparation for Advanced Placement classes in high school. Students will be more engaged in higher order and critical thinking skills; this includes completing writing assignments and writing-based assessments (such as essays) throughout the school year. Students will spend more time reading inside and outside of class for their studies and assignments (ex: novels, research documents, research articles on the Internet, etc.). Students will be regularly engaged in work and studies outside of class. Students can expect to collaborate and work in teams with classmates and/or professional experts, as well as work independently as a self-motivated learner. Students will participate in academic extra-curricular competitions and/or opportunities for publication throughout the school year (Ex. Oratorical Contest, NaNoWriMo, Young Georgia Authors, etc.). Students can expect to work on these activities both inside and outside of class. Students will be highly encouraged to participate in service-oriented clubs and/or activities at the school or in the community.

I am very excited about the opportunity to build a relationship with you and your child this year. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Mrs. Ferrell

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Please complete and return this syllabus packet to Ms. Ferrell (not your homeroom teacher).

I have read and understand the course expectations and requirements for Ms. Ferrell's language arts class. I also understand that even though written assignments may not be given every night, reading and studying notes and materials are expected every school night.

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

It is **very** important that you **print neatly** as you fill out the information below.

Contact Information (names, phone numbers, and email addresses):

Since many classroom assignments will have virtual components, please complete this technology survey to let Mrs. Ferrell know what accommodations (if any) need to be made.

Does your child have internet access at home? YES NO

Does your child have internet access for school work on a daily basis? YES NO

Does your child have transportation to the public library? YES NO

Additional Comments (for example, health conditions, special needs, or questions):