

PARENT NOTES FOR MARGARET SHUMAN'S

2023-24 CLASSES

Can we meet you before classes start? Yes! Please email me and I would be happy to meet anyone in your family for a walk at a park, a drink at a coffee shop, a chat at a library, or whatever works for us. I live in Clarkston and can get to Paramount Coffee in Tucker or Refuge Coffee in Clarkston easily, but can meet you in your direction if we can schedule that.

What about extra credit reading and where is the list? The list and directions are at MargaretShuman.com. Students can continue reading from the list over the year, but summer is a great time to start and even complete all possible extra credit reading. Brit Lit and Multicultural Lit have an honors option; you can find details for honors credit linked to the course descriptions at my website. AP students who read from the list receive extra grades added into their averages each semester.

What textbooks do we need?

- ❑ **Multicultural Lit textbooks are supplied by parents.**

Primary Text: Laurence Perrine's Literature: *Structure, Sound, and Sense, Fifth Edition* (ISBN 0155511084). Please double-check the ISBN--the book is bright purple. My AP Lit uses different parts of the same textbook, if you know someone who has been in that class or a previous ML.

- ❑ **AP Lit textbooks/paperbacks are supplied by parents.**

Primary Text: Laurence Perrine's Literature: *Structure, Sound, and Sense, Fifth Edition* (ISBN 0155511084). Please double-check the ISBN--the book is bright purple. My AP Lit uses different parts of the same textbook as ML, if you know someone who has been in ML or AP Lit previously. This text includes several plays that we may study such as *A Doll's House*, *Othello*, and *Death of a Salesman*.

Others to buy for now: *Cry, the Beloved Country* (Paton); *The Plague* (Camus); *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (Solzhenitsyn).

- ❑ **British Lit textbooks: PDFs are requested from me.**

Primary Text: *England in Literature* (Medallion Edition-**Hamlet**), ISBN 0673129225.

Plan A: These books are out of print but may still be available to purchase (but very expensive probably).

Plan B: After purchasing about all of the remaining copies left through online companies and actual book warehouses over the past 10 years, and because I still own 30+ worn copies, I have made a clear PDF copy of the text for my class's use. Students can download these copies, and have a digital or paper copy for use in class and elsewhere. After the school year is over, the files would be deleted. They should never be posted or shared outside our class.

What supplies are needed, besides textbooks? notebook paper, a binder for handouts, hole punch for managing handouts, small stapler for turning in assignments, favorite pens or pencils

How do we track grades and attendance? We will use the Gradebook program, which is included in the program you used to enroll your student at MAS or Eastside this year.

How do you give out homework? Via Gradebook postings within 24 hours of class. Be sure that both parent and student can log into Gradebook for homework assignments. You also have access to a Gradebook calendar that also tracks assignments by due dates—please take time to find this Gradebook feature when the course starts.

Do I get to see graded papers? Yes! I normally return work within a week of it being submitted to me, sometimes sooner if I receive it through Gradebook, where I will post graded work where I received a particular assignment. You should ask to see your student's papers or uploaded assignments in Gradebook for their accountability. You can know what graded papers to expect by looking at assignments posted each week.

Can I help my child with their homework? Let me know if you are helping and why, so that we can work together. Otherwise, I would like to see only the student's work so I can evaluate their progress. We can conference at any time about questions or concerns you have about grading and feedback. Let's stay in touch as needed!

What if my student has a question about homework or anything else? Please have your student contact me by email, rather than having you write me on their behalf. This is good practice for students who need to learn proper communication skills with teachers and other leaders, and this helps me build rapport with your student. Of course you can be copied on such emails if you'd like, back and forth. Feel free to chat with your student about their homework, but encourage them to write me with questions. Please don't do their homework for them.

What if I have a question myself? Please contact me! I check email often at shumanhw@gmail.com, which you can access via Gradebook or otherwise. My phone number is 678-772-1644. I am always happy to talk to parents, whether by email, phone, or personal conference. I don't prefer texts since they can get mixed up in my personal texts and perhaps get missed while I answer family communication.

Do you accept late work? I give "grace" once per semester per student. This grace means that a student can turn in an assignment up to one week after the missed deadline and that assignment will be graded as if it had been on time. After grace is used, I then give zeroes on additional late assignments that semester. To potentially redeem a zero, a student must schedule an appointment between the student, one of their parents, and me. Exceptions would be anticipated absences, illness, and emergencies.

What if we need to miss a class? Please discuss planned absences with me before the absence and assignment deadline, if possible, and consider bringing your student to an alternate time/location for that class. My MAS and Eastside teaching schedules are in a chart at MargaretShuman.com.

You don't mark every error on student writing? No. I can be a thorough mistake-marker because I am also a copy editor, but my experience shows that most students get discouraged when every possible error is marked. Each class works on several writing objectives at a time, and I mark each student's work based on their progress. Expectations are cumulatively increased through the year, and I see writing proficiency and confidence grow this way.

You are especially critical of errors on AP assignments? Yes. These students need to be less fragile and more ready for the challenge to see where their writing is missing the mark of college level work. At the same time, I give individualized feedback/encouragement so that every student has a chance to improve and succeed from whatever point they enter the class.

How do I get a grade report? You are able to print/save reports from Gradebook. I can work with you on other methods of grade reporting as well, such as a PDF report with the MAS or Eastside logo at the top for each semester.

What is your grading scale?

A/Excellent/90-100, B/Good/80-89, C/Average/74-79, D/Passing/70-73. F/Failure/0-69, I/Incomplete.

What evaluation percentages are represented by your grades?

ML--30% classwork, 60% homework, 10% tests

BL--30% classwork, 50% homework, 20% tests

AP--30% classwork, 40% homework, 30% tests

Are you using all of the listed days on the MAS/Eastside websites? We will have two classes after Thanksgiving.

Where can we find a syllabus and other info about your classes? MargaretShuman.com

How do we pay for classes? You will receive a memo with details from Mrs. Caryn Becker, my bookkeeper who is also the bookkeeper for Derek Owens. You can pay by check delivered to me in my classroom, by check to my PO box, and by PayPal. There is no discount if you pay up front, but there are discounts listed at my website in the course descriptions—I will give Mrs. Becker your tuition rate for her to fill in to your invoice. Please contact me re: financial situations you may encounter so we can work out a plan other than the monthly one Mrs. Becker will use to invoice you.

Can you tailor the name of a class to fit my transcript needs? Usually. If so, I can provide a grade report with an alternate course name through Gradebook or whatever documentation you need. The AP class, however, must be called “Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition” as per my approval by the College Board.

Can we finish a course after the class dates are completed in May? Yes, if there has been an emergency, or unusual situation we have planned ahead for, we can work something out. Otherwise, my hourly tutoring fee is \$50/hr.

Do you write references for your students? All the time! Have your student send me the requirements and to whom to send the letter or form, and I will happily meet your deadline as possible. I include anecdotes to keep the referral from sounding canned, and work hard to represent your student positively. If I cannot be positive, I will inform you and defer to someone else.

Is your AP course approved by the College Board for this school year? Yes. If you need a letter of approval from the College Board for your files, drop me a note and I will provide one to fit your particular need. If you are in an accredited group, your AP coordinator should contact the College Board and link up with my approval status so that your accreditor can legally put the AP course title on your transcript.

Can parents visit your classes? Yes, drop in! I do not need notice. You can bring others as well. You can find my schedule for Eastside and MAS locations at my website, MargaretShuman.com.