

AP Seminar 2019-2020

Mrs. Verwys

August 21, 2019

Welcome to AP Seminar! My name is Mrs. Verwys and this is my sixth year at Northview after transitioning here from Ferris State University. As I look through my class list, I am excited to see last names that I recognize! This is an indication to me that I am settling in to Northview. If you are a Northview alumni or new to the district, I look forward to working with your student in the next year.

We understand there may be some questions around your student's enrollment in this new course, so to help with that we would like to invite you to a Parent Meeting on Wednesday, September 4 at 6:15pm. This meeting will run before the regularly scheduled Parent Open House at 7:00pm.

Please join us in the small gym for this informative meeting. You'll have the opportunity to meet me, get course details and expectations and hear more about the AP Exam option.

There are 4 main components of my AP Seminar: we read, we write, we speak and we collaborate. Your students have already had first hand experience with each of these pieces in other classes and I'm confident you'll hear more about it throughout the year.

The only way to get better at writing is to write. We write in my class everyday. To that end, *it is necessary for your student to have a **composition notebook (non-spiral) in class every day.*** Some items will be processed through to final publication, others will not. But we will work everyday to develop and improve our skills as writers, making these notebooks a necessity.

Likewise, the only way to get better at reading is to read. This holds true for excellent readers as well as reluctant ones. With this in mind, the goal is for your son or daughter to read 50-100 pages per week. For the average student, this translates to 30 minutes of reading every day (in and out of school). I will work tirelessly to motivate your student to read in school across genres as well as for pleasure. Your son or daughter will have the opportunity to select his or her own books to read independently.

To help your student reach this reading goal, I will provide a selection of books to borrow in the classroom library. It is available to any student who wants to choose a book to read independently. (This is not the only place to get books, however, you can certainly help by bringing your child to the public library and/or a local bookstore.) Research shows that availability of books is a major motivating factor in getting children to read. Students who are surrounded by books at school and at home read more. Students who read *more* will read *better*. I have found that having a classroom library has dramatically increased the amount of reading that students do.

I am sensitive to having appropriate reading material in the classroom library. That said, what is considered *appropriate* may vary from one parent or one family to another. Please know that the selections in the classroom library, just like any public library, have a broad range for both interest and readability. As a parent/family, I ask you to remain aware of the books your child has chosen to read throughout the school year and assist

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in gauging appropriateness. Please talk to your child about the books that she/he is reading.

Rest assured that the books in the classroom library are *never* assigned. The books are chosen by your student, so there can certainly be other choices if you are not satisfied with any book. Also, please help remind your child to read every night (at least 20 minutes) and to return any borrowed books, or purchase replacements for lost copies. By checking books out of my classroom, they are assuming responsibility of the book.

Another great way to find out what we are doing in class is to check out my website. I post every assignment there every day, so there's never a reason that your student shouldn't be prepared for class. It's also a great way for you to find out what we are working on!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the phone number or e-mail address below. I look forward to working together this year.

Should you be interested in purchasing school supplies in advance:

I require the composition notebook (no spiral)

I recommend 3 ring binder (2"); high lighters; different colored pens

I request Kleenex boxes; hand sanitizer and sticky notes (3"x3")

Thank you for your support of the hard work your student is doing in AP Seminar and we look forward to meeting you on September 4 at 6:15pm.

Sincerely,

Betsy Verwys
AP Seminar
Newspaper Adviser
Northview High School
(616) 363-4857
bverwys@nvps.net
nvAPseminar.weebly.com
verwys.weebly.com
nvroar.com