

ACT Prep (2021-2022) Syllabus
Mrs. Beth Clark
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I. Course Description

Students in ACT Prep will focus on the English, Reading, and Writing portions of the ACT. They will utilize the course texts and materials in order to become better test-takers. Course objectives include: learning test-taking skills, learning reading and writing strategies, and reviewing grammar rules.

Please note that you will not be automatically registered for the ACT by taking this course. It is the responsibility of the student to register for the test on their own.

School Supply List

- **Pens, pencils, and highlighters**
- **Notecards and Post-it Notes**
- **File Folders and / or pocket folders**
- **Notebooks/loose-leaf paper**
- **Printer, printer paper, and printer ink cartridges**
- **Index cards**

II. Course Structure

This course is a .5 credit, which means that you are enrolled in the course for one semester. However, the course is further split in half so that you can have a Math teacher (Ms. Dombrowski) for 9 weeks and an English teacher (Mrs. Clark) for 9 weeks, since the ACT and most other standardized tests examine your abilities in both Math and English. This 9 weeks, you will be with Mrs. Clark learning about English, Reading and Writing as it pertains to the ACT. There is so much information that must be covered in such a short amount of time, so the course moves very quickly. We will spend approximately one month on English, one month on Reading, and one to two weeks on Writing.

Please check Schoology at the beginning of each week to get a general overview of what each day will look like (ie: when live sessions will occur, when you might need to schedule a one-on-one conference, etc.) and plan your week ahead of time. Organization takes prior planning on everyone's part, so that we all end up in the same digital meeting at the same time so that learning can happen. I encourage you to invest in planner or digital planner.

Logging into Schoology

All students will access their classes using the following steps:

- 1. Login to your HCS issued laptop using your username and password.**
- 2. Click on the "Clever" icon on your home screen or go to www.clever.com and select "Login as a Student" at the top.**
- 3. Students use Clever to access different platforms such as Schoology & Inow. To login go to Clever-> Select Huntsville City Schools-> select Log in with active directory-> sign in with your student email address (first name.lastname@stu.hsv-**

k12.org) -> your password is your six digit birthday. Find and select the “Schoology” tile within Clever.

4. You will then see your scheduled classes in Schoology.
5. Click on the scheduled class to login to live instruction, see class assignments, and find login information for office hours.

Important Platforms:

- **Schoology**- This is the main platform we will be using and is taking the place of Canvas. On this page you will find assignments, files, and announcements.
- **Nearpod**- This frequently used website will contain both live and student-paced lessons. Schoology will contain the codes for these lessons.

As a general guideline please recognize that all HCS policies apply to all of these platforms. Please be mindful of what you post. Always remember to place your name in emails and on the other platforms that we use so that you will receive credit. Also remember that your learning is your responsibility, as always, and that it is up to you turn in these assignments on time.

Weekly Assignments

- You will have at least two grades each week.
- You may complete assignments in advance within each weekly module, but instruction will be provided based upon the instructional schedule.
- Assignments are due on their due date as assigned by the teacher. Assignments are NOT optional, and they must be completed on time.

III. Grading Procedures

According to Huntsville City Schools, students will have the opportunity to earn at least two grades per week with a minimum of three grades that are summative and three that are formative during a single grading period.

- 60%: Assessments
- 40%: In Class Assignments

The semester average is calculated as follows:

45% (1st nine weeks grade) + 45% (2nd nine weeks grade) + 10% (semester exam)

Late Work

Each assignment has its own deadlines, so make sure to look at those and plan accordingly when the assignment becomes available on Schoology. Late work WILL NOT be accepted. It will be counted as a zero. Assignments will not be available after the due date. If you have an extenuating circumstance, please contact me before the assignment is due to make alternate arrangements.

Communication

- Email: elizabeth.clark@hsv-k12.org (preferred method of contact)
- Messages on Schoology

Academic Integrity

As a student at HHS, you are always expected to uphold the highest standards of honesty. Do not take a risk in losing your eligibility for honor societies. Students caught cheating / plagiarizing will receive a zero on the assignment for the first offense. Second offenses and beyond will receive a zero and will be documented in BLOOM.

IV. How to Succeed

- Show up to your class. Be on time!
- DEMAND full understanding. Ask until you are satisfied. Communicate with me.
- Put your full effort into all assignments, in-class and homework.
- Sleep 7-8 hours every night and eat a healthy breakfast every morning. An apple in the morning is better caffeine than a cup of coffee or a can of soda. Sleep deprivation on critical nights after learning may cause 30% loss.
- Don't depend on extra credit.

Classroom Rules:

- 1. Be Respectful**
- 2. Be Responsible**
- 3. Be Prepared**

Cell Phone Policy

According to Huntsville City Schools, Personal Electronic Devices (“PED”) have become a common means of communication and information access in today’s society. However, these devices have the potential of disrupting the orderly operation of the District’s schools. For the purposes of this policy PED means a privately-owned device that is used for audio, video, or text communication or any other type of computer-like instrument. PEDs may include but are not limited to:

- Existing and emerging mobile communication systems and smart technologies (cellular phones, iPhones, Smartphones, internet-enabled phones, smartwatches, etc.)
- Personal Digital Assistants (PDA) (Palm organizers, pocket PCs, etc.)
- Handheld entertainment systems (video games, CD players, compact DVD players, MP3 players, iPods)
- PED accessories (earphones, earbuds, etc.)
- Portable internet devices (mobile messengers, iPads, etc.)
- Current or emerging wireless handheld technologies or portable information technology systems that can be used for word processing, wireless internet access, image capture/recording, sound recording, and information transmitting/receiving/storing, etc.

PEDs may not be used by students for any disruptive purpose including telephone calls, text messaging, taking photographs and videos, or any other functions during the regular school day. Students may possess PEDs, but they must be powered off and out of sight in backpacks/purses or lockers. It is not permissible for PEDS to be on “silent” or vibrate” during this time.

PEDs shall not be used in any way that threatens, humiliates, harasses, or intimidates students, school personnel, or visitors, or otherwise violates District policies and regulations or local, state, or federal laws. Students are prohibited from sending, sharing, viewing, or possessing pictures, text messages, emails, or other material of a sexually explicit nature on their PEDs while on school premises, at school-sponsored activities, or on school transportation. Further, students are prohibited from using the camera, video, or recording functions of their PEDs on school premises or at

school-sponsored activities where another student or individual has an expectation of privacy, including, but not limited to, locker rooms, counseling sessions, restrooms, dressing areas, etc.

Temporary confiscation of a student's PED is appropriate for violations of this policy. Any building staff person who confiscates a PED will hand it to the building administrator immediately. The building administrator will hold the PED until such time as the student's parent or guardian makes an appointment to pick up the item.

******Please note that this year is vulnerable to unforeseen and uncontrollable issues, and therefore this syllabus is subject to changes that may occur. The rest of the year is still unknown and has the potential to uproot the plans outlined here. Try as much as possible to be flexible when those changes happen.******