

John C. Kimball High School

July 25th, 2013

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

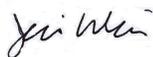
My name is Jessica Weiss and I have the privilege of teaching your child in my English II class this semester. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and the course and offer you the opportunity for weekly contact if you so desire. And I hope if any issues arise specific to your child that we can work together on it.

Reading is a major focus of my classroom, and I will need your help to succeed in helping your son or daughter meet success in reading and even reach a desire to read. Reading is the single most important skill that your child can develop that will help him or her do better in all of his or her classes and in whatever future endeavors he or she ventures into. The only way to get better at reading is by reading. This is why I require 100 hours of independent reading for the school year which will require your child to manage time, keep a reading log, reading record (for completed novels), and get your signature on his/her reading log. This level of independent reading will contribute to a stronger vocabulary, and hopefully, a higher reading level by the time he/she leaves my classroom. It will also help him or her get great examples of good writing and grammar which will add to our understanding and extension during class time. Lastly, it will help him or her do better on important and unimportant tests he or she is required or volunteering to take like the CAHSEE, STAR, and SAT. The CAHSEE is first taken this school year and it is ideal for your student to pass this the first time around. Without passing it (after multiple tries) your son or daughter will not graduate. Test prep will not be a major focus of my class but it will be something I will incorporate.

There are some things you can do from home to help your child reach the goals of my class. Firstly, you can help him or her find enjoyable books by taking him or her to the library, buying him or her books, or making suggestions for books. I will also be taking my classes to the school library and making some books and magazines available within my classroom. You can also take an interest in what he or she is reading and start some discussions. You could even go so far as to read what he or she is reading and participate in further discussions. You can also help your child find a quiet place to read and make sure he or she has the time to read. At least 15 minutes everyday is important. If it's skipped, just help your child manage it into other days. In addition, there will be some formal papers your child will have to write and any help revising or editing that you provide could be helpful as well.

I hope this school year is rewarding and enlightening for your child and for you. Please let me know below if you would like weekly or monthly check ins with me about your child. Email is going to be the easiest way to have continued contact but if you require a phone call, let me know. You can also email me anytime and I will reply ASAP.

Sincerely,



Jessica Weiss

-----Detach-----

Your child's name: _____

Your name: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Amount of contact requested: _____