Dear Parents/Caregivers:

I are happy to have your son/daughter in English IV class this semester at South Stokes High School. Hopefully, with your support, we will all have a successful experience. Parental support and involvement is crucial to a student’s success, so I would like to tell you about our class.

English IV is called British Literature. We have started using the Common Core Curriculum, which means that your child may read fewer pieces of literature, but will study the work more intensively, including non-fiction connections to help him/her better understand the whole scope of the literature. This will also be the case with the novels we read.

The students will be involved in various projects. They will be expected to read novels outside of the classroom and complete a book project on each one. (I will provide the instructions for each book project.) There will be several short research project that they will do in a group. Students in English IV may read literature that contains mature subject matter and language. Sometimes, we will also view the movie that goes with the literature or view a program which will shed light on the time period in which the book takes place.

We will be using Prentice Hall *Literature* textbooks. I will not issue a text to your child, but will expect him/her to follow along in class or read on his/her own when work is assigned from the book. Class time is very important. Most of our work will be done during the class period. Homework will be studying for literary term tests, vocabulary tests, reading books, or doing outside projects.

Each student should have a composition book, 3 ring binder, loose-leaf notebook paper, dividers, pen, pencil, colored pencils, and markers.

I expect each student to respect each other, themselves, and me. I will not hesitate to call if a problem arises that we cannot resolve. Disruptive behavior has no place in the classroom, nor does sleeping. Please make sure that your child gets an adequate amount of sleep during the school week.

Hats are not to be worn in the room. This includes hoods on the back of sweatshirts and sweaters and pertains to boys and girls **The same goes for cell phones.** **They are to be turned off and put in backpacks while at school.** They may be used after school to call parents/grandparents, etc. Remember, students should not have a cell phone on his/her person that can be seen visibly. We will give one warning, and then take the phone and send it to the office. Students who blatantly use and are caught with a phone out during class will automatically have their phones taken and the parents will be called. **The best place for your phone is in your backpack. We are counting on the support of parents, because the use of cell phones in class has become disruptive.** **Students have been known to text message during class rather than listen to the lesson/do their work. This is disruptive and insubordinate behavior.**

If at any time during the semester you need to talk to me about grades or other matters, please feel free to call Mrs. Dempsey at school between 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. If you are unable to reach me, please leave a message on my voice mails. My email is amy.dempsey@south.k12.nc.us. Email is an acceptable form of communication. You will also be able to communicate with my through Jupiter Grades.

**Class Rules**

You must be in the room preparing for class when the tardy bell rings.

**Personal CD or MP3 players have their place, but please do not have them out or use them in the classroom. (See school policy in on the website)**

**Food and drink are not allowed. Water (in a capped bottle) is the exception. Please do not make me have to take away drinks or food.**

**Turn work in when it is due. If you turn something in late, I will count off for it. If it is over 2 days late, don’t expect to receive a passing grade.**

Please do not throw things in the classroom or engage in horse-play for safety reasons.

If you need to buy or borrow a pen/pencil, or a piece of paper, please do so before class, or at the beginning of class before we start our work. You should be prepared at all times.

**Make- up Policy**

Please see the make-up policy in the Agenda book for make-up work. I will follow it. Please make up work as quickly as possible so that you will not become overwhelmed. To make up a test, please see me to set a time. If you were present when a test was assigned and then you missed the day of the test, you should make that test up the day you return, unless you talk to me and we decide otherwise.

**Bathroom Policy**

Students who have been in class **for at least one- half hou**r or have an emergency and need to go to the restroom should sign out of the room and take the hall pass, sign back in and return the hall pass. We will only have one pass, and only one person is allowed to be out at a time, so please do this responsibly.

**Grading Policy**

Writing and Exams 30%

Class work and Quizzes 20%

Class participation 20%

Peer Interaction 10%

Projects 20%