Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to English III! I’m your child’s ELA teacher this semester, and if she or he is in Period 5, Ms. Deanne Finewood is also working with us. This year, everything is looking a little different, and this class is no exception. We will all have to be flexible and quick to respond to changes as they may present themselves. As such, texts and units are going to be created, modified, substituted, and expanded as necessary over the next few months. But one thing will not be subject to change: our respect and dedication to your children, and our resolve to teach them to the best of our abilities.

English III is traditionally known as The English Class with The Regents Exam at the end of it. This year, we have no indication as to whether or not the Regents exam will actually be given, since the spring and fall Regents exams were cancelled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we are going to be proceeding, and preparing our scholars as if the exam will be given in January. That is our duty, and it’s always better to be overprepared than underprepared.

The skills we’ll be focusing on will include analytical writing, argumentative writing, claim construction, position defense and support, and even narrative writing. Texts will be varied and wide-ranging. For example, we’re starting the year examining Paul Laurence Dunbar’s poem, “Sympathy,” which was inspiration for Maya Angelou’s famous poem, “Caged Bird,” which we’ll be studying next week. Then, October will be focusing on narratives, both fiction and non-fiction. The goal is to expose students to many different texts, in many different genres, from many different writers, of many different backgrounds and cultures.

We realize there is a lot of trepidation about this year – we feel it, too. We will be doing our best to make the best of our current situation. Please feel free to reach out to me (or any of my co-teachers) with concerns. I’ve set up Remind groups for each class, the links to which are included on my RCSD website. Remind is a free texting app. Please feel free to join so that you can easily and quickly contact me at any point, and I can do the same.

We’re all in this together, and we’re looking forward to another great – albeit different – year of English III!

Sincerely,

Nate Kester

**Classroom Expectations**

✓ Contribute to the class environment in a positive manner

✓ Be respectful to your classmates and teachers

✓ Communicate concerns when they arise

✓ ATTEND DAILY

**Assessments**

Grading break downs like this:

*Classwork*– 30%

*Project/Essay* – 60%

*Do Nows/Participation* – 10%