

# ACT Prep

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## Class Expectations

In order for students to achieve their potential, there is a degree of expectation that must be met in the classroom setting. It is the goal of this class to prepare each student, not only for post-secondary success, but also help prepare them for the biggest test they will take- the test of life. My teaching philosophy is simple: *I teach life in the context of History*. It is my desire to see every student succeed at whatever they dream of doing as well as grow up to be first class people. In order to aid in this venture, here are the class guidelines that will help us achieve this goal:

- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible
- Be Ready
- Be Receptive

## Cell Phone Policy

In accordance with new state law and school board policy 6.132, personal communication devices must be in the off mode and placed in a backpack, pocketbook, or stored out of sight until the end of the school day (8:15-3:15). This includes instructional time, lunch periods, and transition times between classes. If I see a device, it will be confiscated. Plans are in place for academic, medical, and emergency situations. Consequences are as follow per school rules:

- First offense: the phone will be confiscated and taken to the office until the end of the day
- Second offense: the phone will be confiscated and taken to the office until the end of the day and must be picked up by a parent
- Third offense: the phone will be confiscated and taken to the office until the end of the day and must be picked up by a parent. In addition, the student will face disciplinary action for insubordination

## Course Format

The structure of this class is formatted around a system to prepare students for critical thinking and decision making, whether in the workplace, at college, future high school classes, or any venue life takes them. The ability to think critically and understand why things happen and how they affect everything around them is one of the most important skills anyone can develop. There will be a large degree of independent work while mastering skills. It will take many forms including trial, error, assessing mistakes, and fixing them. The end goal is for students to make gains on their ACT score as well as learning problem solving and critical thinking skills that will serve them for life.

## Class Participation/Preparedness

Students will be responsible for readings and expected to participate in class discussions as part of their participation/preparedness score. The course will also rely on *daily use* of their Chromebooks and they **will be expected to be charged and ready for use on a daily basis.** Failure to have it ready and charged will result in loss of points. They will receive a grade at the end of each nine weeks for their preparation and participation in class.

## Communication

I use two ways to communicate with students and parents:

1) **Remind App:** Remind will be used for announcements, updates, and will be a way to communicate with me directly. I will make every effort not to make late night announcements. Remind will be utilized often for reminders and even assignment updates. **ALL STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR INFORMATION SENT ON REMIND.**

2) **Email:** My email stays pulled up on my computer all day. After 3:45, I do not check my email again until the next morning. Once I leave for the weekend, I will not check it again until Sunday evening. If you absolutely need to contact me after school hours or you need me quickly, the best chance of getting a response will be through the Remind App. Responses may be slower after hours as I want to protect my family time as much as possible. If it is a matter that is not urgent, email is the best way to communicate with me.

## Grades

We will utilize Khan Academy as well as other online resources and activities. Grades will come from those activities.

## Nine Weeks and Final Exam

The students will take 3 full ACT practice tests throughout the semester. One at the beginning, once at the midterm, and once as a final exam.

## Grading Procedures

**Grading:** Grades are based on a point system. Each assignment will have a point value. At the end of each 9 weeks, points achieved will be divided by the number of points possible for each student and a grade is determined. The Grading scale is as follows:

- A: 90-100
- B: 80-89
- C: 70-79
- D: 60-69
- F: 59 and below

**Late Work:** The fact of the matter is, life happens sometimes. It's understandable and it can't always be avoided. At the same time, life doesn't happen every single time an assignment is due. There is an expectation of turning in your work on time in my class, but as I have mentioned, life happens sometimes. Each student will be given **TWO** free 24-hour extensions on any assignment that is not a quiz or exam per 9 weeks. The following will be the late work policy for class:

- 1-2 days late = (-10%)
- 3-5 days late = (-25%)
- 6 or more days late = student will be able to earn up to 50% of the points for the assignment

The only time a student will receive a score of ZERO (0) is when the student does not turn the work in or is caught cheating, including but not limited to plagiarism (this includes the use of any form of AI).

**Extra Credit:** Extra credit is only available if the student has completed all regular assignments to that point. If the student is missing an assignment, they will be directed to complete that assignment first before receiving extra credit. Likewise, students may redo any assignment that is not a quiz or test.

**Attendance & Makeup Policy:** Attendance is vital to achievement in any class. Make-up work does not replace actual instruction and investigation during a class setting. I encourage the students not to miss if they can help it. Obviously, if a student is ill and presents a possible chance of getting others sick, we want them to rest at home and get better. However, I strongly encourage you to make doctor, dentist, and other appointments during another time that does not pull them out of their classes.

Students will be given a reasonable amount of time to make up work that has been missed. They can access what was done each day through Google Classroom. Students will have 5 school days (not class days) to make up for missed work as according to school board policy. After the 5 days, the late work policy will kick in. Quizzes and tests will be scheduled by the teacher and student and must be completed **AT SCHOOL** before the end of the nine weeks.

## **Course Map:**

### **Module 1: What is the ACT and Why Does it Matter**

- Goals and Career Interests
- Post Secondary Institutions and Opportunities
- Post Secondary Plans
- ACT Structure
- ***ACT Practice Test #1 (Pre-test)***

### **Module 2: Reading**

- Structure & Format of Reading Test
- Reading Strategies
- Reading under time constraints

### **Module 3: Math**

- Structure & Format of Math Test
- Breakdown of different subject areas of Math on ACT
- Math practice for each style
- Math under time constraints
- Calculator Tips & Tricks
- ***ACT Practice Test #2 (Midterm)***

### **Module 4: Science**

- Structure & Format of Science Test
- Breakdown of different subject areas of Science on ACT
- Science practice for each style
- Science under time constraints

### **Module 5: English**

- Structure & Format of English Test
- Breakdown of different subject areas of English on ACT
- English practice for each style
- English under time constraints

### **Module 6: Final Prep**

- Final tips, tricks, and strategies
- ***ACT Practice Test #3 (Final Exam)***