

The Role of Parents and/or Guardians

How can I tell if my son/daughter is developing these skills and qualities?

Ask your child about their approach to learning development; your child should be able to explain each of the qualities to you and give examples of his/her accountability, adaptability, leadership, initiative, curiosity, social, and cultural awareness in English class and in life outside of school. He/she should express growing interest and understanding of the course and expected outcomes. He/she will view English assignments as an opportunity to share knowledge.

How do I know if my son/daughter is experiencing difficulty with the demands of the course?

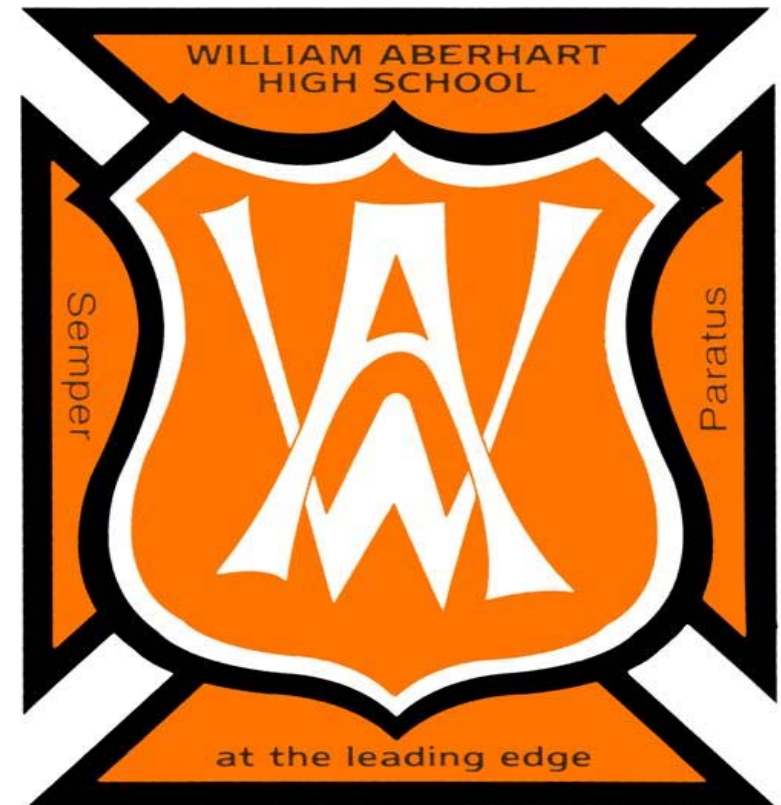
Your child may complain of not having sufficient time to complete the readings and the assignments or not being able to keep up with the class activities. He/she may be easily frustrated by the expectations and blame others for difficulties experienced. One or more of the assignments may not be completed satisfactorily.

What can I do?

Encourage your son/daughter to: use an agenda, organize his/her time and binder, attend tutorials that are offered daily, and do homework, either reviewing or preparing notes or assignments, every night. Ask your child to explain the marking system and offer to proofread assignments. Establish a dialogue concerning the course work and progress including a discussion about the choices of novel and literature your child has made. Encourage your child to vary the speed he/she reads literature. Faster is *not* always better. Some literature needs to be read slowly and carefully several times.

Most importantly, *share your love of reading and learning with your son/daughter!*

English Language Arts



William Aberhart High School

Welcome to English Language Arts at Aberhart!

A student who is experiencing a high degree of success in English at high school will have demonstrated a number of strengths. He/she will use critical thinking, exploration and increasing sophistication of thought in his/her approaches to literature, discussions and assignments. He/she will demonstrate increased accountability for his/her learning and a positive attitude and curiosity toward the course's activities and texts. Ideally, all students will become effective, flexible collaborative workers capable of demonstrating empathy toward others (social and cultural awareness). English courses are designed to foster students' sense of leadership and initiative by being respectful, active members amongst all people in the learning environment.

What is expected of the student?

Taking responsibility for their learning by:

- Regularly attending class
- Using class time effectively (as this is an excellent chance for gaining support in learning complex tasks)
- Completing homework *thoroughly* and avoiding short cuts
- Taking a proactive approach
- Seeking feedback and help *prior* to due dates
- Using tutorial effectively
- Engaging in the English 'process' for deconstructing text
- Avoiding last minute text creation
- Demonstrating time management skills
- Exhibiting a readiness to learn

What our students are encouraged to do in English.

Demonstrate commitment as shown by:

- Challenging themselves to think, read, and write at increasing levels of complexity
- Realizing that frustration is a natural part of learning when new concepts are introduced (and, of course, progressing past frustration and into efficacy)
- Maintaining a prolonged effort to achieve high grades
- Exploring answers comprehensively rather than merely stating ideas
- Engaging in the process of learning and in their own growth

What can student expect from the teacher?

Encouragement and facilitation of student growth, through:

- An invitation to learn about the human condition
- An introduction to and reinforcement of the English 'process' for making meaning
- Continued encouragement of student thinking and exploration in writing
- Teaching strategies to understand text at increasing levels of sophistication
- Giving feedback, in multiple forms, about their demonstrated learning
- Providing opportunities to become skillful, discerning readers
- Availability to help during tutorials or other times, when requested
- Dialogue about student's development throughout the course
- Commitment to encourage students who demonstrate readiness to learn