**Dear Parents and Students**,

 Welcome to a new semester of Language Arts. My name is Margaret Kraft and I am excited to teach Sophomore Honors Language Arts here at Edsel Ford! I have a Bachelor’s Degree in Education with a major in English Language and Literature and a minor in Communication Theatre Arts. I also have an MA. My energy, teaching experience, and quality lessons are only one half of the equation which is completed by student effort and motivation. I work very hard and I expect hard work in return. Beyond the teacher /student work ethic, honors students are held to the following:

**Honors students exhibit behavior which allows the teacher to move steadily through higher level material and which lends itself to essays, discussions, and presentations of an accelerated nature. In Honors Language Arts, with the proper mindset, teaching material pushes students to their capabilities and helps prepare them for AP Language Arts in 11th grade. Behaviors which inhibit learning are unacceptable.**

**The behavior and mindset of an honors student includes, but is not limited to the following:**

**-Respect for others during discussion, lecture, and presentations**

**-Ability to thoughtfully listen and build upon others’ commentary**

**-Engage in active learning without disruption: (remain in seat, bring supplies, etc.)**

**-Display self-motivation and an intrinsic desire for improvement beyond a grade**

**-Ability to work autonomously when needed**

**-Effectively collaborate with others fairly and respectfully**

 The rules for Honors Language Arts 4 are on the following page, and they include classroom and blog expectations, necessary supplies, absence procedures, and a late work policy*.* **My blog is updated periodically to keep students updated on work, provide material for printing, and view upcoming assessments and homework due dates.** **Students who are ABSENT are expected to keep up to date and have necessary materials and assignments when they return to class**.

 Parents and students, please view the classroom policies, then sign this sheet only and have your student bring it to class by Friday, January 31st.

**\*\*Our signatures below indicate that we have read, understand, and agree to abide by the policies and guidelines described in the rules as well as the expectations for Mrs. Kraft’s blog.**

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Neatly print your first and last name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student’s email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Rules for Honors Language Arts 4 – Kraft

1. Bring the necessary supplies to class daily: **one notebook** (80 pages minimum, wide ruled), **a folder** with pockets, prongs, and **wide ruled loose leaf**, **dark blue or black ink pens**, and a yellow highlighter (optional).
2. Be prompt and prepared. Make up all work due to absence in a timely fashion. ***Absent students should check the blog at home for updates***, check the daily calendar in class, and get work from the Absent Box upon return. Get notes/DLPs from a classmate immediately. If the absence occurs on a test day, be prepared to make up the test upon return. Make every effort to be here on test days!
3. Complete all work neatly and in ink. ***Pencil is not accepted***. Modern Language Association (MLA) citation will be used on Book Talks, Writer’s Notebooks, essays, and some analyses.
4. Food and drink are to be consumed outside the classroom.
5. ***Set all electronics to mute during class***. Violations will result in the item being taken and sent to the office with a write up. If a student refuses to give up the electronic device, a referral will be written. Room E2 is a RED ZONE because cell phones distract.
6. In order to prepare for the business world and foster respect, students should ***not wear hoods or hats in class.***
7. Do not abuse hall passes.
8. Academic honesty is required. A student who chooses to violate this will receive both a zero on the assignment or test and a write up.
9. ***Text Books – We now have a class set!*** Keep your assigned text book at home and use it for homework. You’ll be assigned a text while in class. The class set stays in E2.
10. **Blog –** The blog can be accessed through the Edsel Ford website **or** by going to <http://iblog.dearbornschools.org/kraftm> . Students may be required to print out directions, worksheets, weekly articles, and review sheets***. Students are to check the blog for announcements, assignments, and extra credit opportunities.***  ***This ESPECIALLY includes any school day a student is not in attendance!***
11. Expect Weekly/Biweekly: vocabulary (usually given on Monday with a Friday quiz), Article of the Week ***(A.O.W.)***, literature selections (Friday quiz), Writer’s Notebook, and Daily Language Practice. This is in addition to essays (argumentative focus), speeches, presentations, and tests.
12. Grading policy: Summative – 80% (quizzes, tests, formal writing- includes Writer’s Notebook )

 Formative – 20% (vocabulary lessons, class work, homework)