

# ROOM D3

SEPTEMBER 2018

## *Ms. Silverman's Classroom Update*



## BEGINNING THE NEW YEAR

-MS. SILVERMAN

Beginning a new year is always exciting! Thank you to the parents who came to Back to School Night; it's always a joy to meet the parents of my new students. For those of you who couldn't make it, I'd like to take a minute to introduce myself. This is my

eight year at Gunderson. I love this school and I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working with our students. I grew up in southern California and went to UC Irvine for my undergraduate degree in Philosophy and my MAT (Masters of Arts in

Teaching). I then traveled to London in the UK to do another Masters in English Literature. I teach freshmen, AP Juniors, and Yearbook at GHS. Please feel free to contact me anytime at [ssilverman@sjusd.org](mailto:ssilverman@sjusd.org).

# AP LANG

In the Fall, AP Lang is beginning our deep dive into the art of persuasion: Rhetoric. Rhetoric is the study of how writers and speakers use language to convince others to take action.

In the AP Language & Composition exam in May, students will be asked to write a Rhetorical Analysis essay. This requires reading a piece of well-written rhetoric, usually a speech (but not always), in which the speaker is arguing for a particular purpose. Students need to be able to identify the purpose of the speech and discuss which elements of language are used to convince the audience of the speaker's purpose. And they have to do all of that in 40 minutes.

To accomplish this mission, students in Room D3 are practicing timed, written essays, using released AP prompts. So far, we have done 3 timed writes with discussions of the AP rubric and released sample essays. Students will write 1 more essay and examine samples. Then, they will choose 1 essay for a formal rewrite. This essay will be turned in as a summative assessment and will go into their grade. You can find the grading scale on my website [silvermangrizzlies.weebly.com](http://silvermangrizzlies.weebly.com).

Stayed tuned for the next Newsletter, wherein I will discuss AP Multiple Choice (APMC)!

# ENGLISH 1-2

In the Fall, English 1-2 reads *The House on Mango Street* (HOMS) by Sandra Cisneros. We use HOMS to review the basic elements of literature such as figurative language, tone, plot, and theme. We also use the book as a springboard to discuss the genre of Coming of Age.

Coming of Age is our theme for the entire 9th grade year and HOMS sets the tone for the discussion we will have about maturity and character throughout the school year. In the Winter we will read *To Kill a Mockingbird* and in spring *Romeo and Juliet* - by the end of the year the goal is for students to be experts in the literary genre of Coming of Age and to be able to (hopefully!) apply the lessons of these pieces of literature to their own, personal journeys.

At the beginning of the school year, students write a baseline WPA (Writing Performance Assessment). The prompt asks them to argue whether or not failure is essential for success. In October, students will be putting together what they've learned from HOMS and learning the elements of argument to rewrite their WPAs for a summative grade.

During the first 6 weeks of school students have been a pleasure to get to know. My ninth grade classes are a really great set this year!

# YEARBOOK

Yearbook has an AMAZING STAFF THIS YEAR! Wow. I am so impressed with these students! Editor-in-Chief, Julian Simpson, and Assistant Editor-in-Chief, Brandon Chiu, are leading their team of editors and staff with style! For the first six weeks of school, Editors lead the staff through our 1, 2, 3, Yearbook textbook and conducted lessons with activities for each section. Our "Team Mom" Mariela Lopez has planned and implemented birthday celebrations and staff bonding activities that brought the team closer together. Soon, we will be heading into deadline season. Deadline #1 is scheduled for November 16th. Please remember that students will need to stay after school on the 16th for our deadline until approximately 8:30pm. Please plan accordingly, it is very important that the whole staff works together to complete a deadline.