I hope everyone is enjoying the long weekend! While I am confident that many students are taking this opportunity to study before exams, I encourage them to balance their time with some de-stress activities as well – exercise, fresh air, and a good night’s sleep are all essential to being at your best. By putting in the effort to learn the material over the last 18 weeks, you’ve already done the most significant preparation for the final.

Final Exam Reminders:
- FOBs will work from 7:45-8:30 and 11:45-12:30 daily.
- There is no cafeteria service this week. Students may leave campus between exams.
- Students must stay in their exams for a minimum of 90 minutes, but may stay longer if they’d like to.
- Students should visit the bookstore between exams to turn in their books from semester 1 coursework and pick up any needed books for their semester 2 classes. The lines at the bookstore next week will be significantly longer.
- Teachers will have semester 1 grades posted to Family Access on Monday, January 27 and semester 2 report cards will be posted by Wednesday, January 29.
- We will not hold a homeroom on the first day of the second semester. Students should consult Family Access to verify their semester 2 schedules.
- Following the 7th hour exam on Friday, I hope everyone has a wonderful, homework/study-free weekend before the start of semester 2!

English 3 and 4 Integration (From the English Team):
As an English department, we take seriously the work of preparing our students for the world beyond high school. Both college and career readiness skills put forward by the state, national boards, and the business community all include several common factors that we work to include in our curriculum. These include reading and writing skills as well as speaking, listening and interpersonal skills. To that end, we are working to incorporate these elements into all levels and areas of study in our department.

Historically, most speaking, listening and interpersonal skills were addressed in English 3, the speech class. As we continue to revisit and improve our curriculum, we feel students will be best served by working these skills throughout several semesters of study more explicitly rather than in one semester. As a result, starting with the current freshman class, English 3 will no longer be a speech class. Rather, it will incorporate literature and writing as well, and the important standards and skills involved in speaking, listening, performance and group dynamics will be woven into and assessed throughout English 1,2,3,4, and Advanced Composition. Student letter grades in these courses will be determined by assessment of the following skills:
- Writing informational, persuasive, and narrative texts.
- Reading, evaluating and analyzing fiction and nonfiction texts.
- Speaking informatively, persuasively, and interpretively.
Preparing both individual and group presentations.
Actively listening and responding to both individual and group presentations.
Participating in and being prepared for graded discussions of course material.

Many of our speaking skills may take the form of presentations but many do not necessarily involve standing in front of the class. Displaying skill proficiency in all areas of class - speaking, listening, discussing, writing, reading, etc. - is elemental to an English course grade. We understand that not all students have equal skill levels or comfort levels in all these areas and our goal is to provide support, instruction, and socially healthy classroom environments that allow students to practice and build their skills in every area. This English 3 and 4 integration was approved by the Teaching and Learning Committee as well as the Board prior to winter break.

As a result of this change, all current freshmen will take English 3 in the fall of next year and English 4 in the spring of 2021.

Kind Regards,

Amy Levek