Senior Passages
The Way of Transition

Lexington High School Mr. Jilka

Overview:

Your senior year of high school is a time of enormous transition. This class is designed to honor that transition, to reflect on what has brought you to this point, and to spend some time thinking about and preparing for what is to come. This is a journey that will be undertaken with care, respect, and humor. Together, we will ask some of the larger questions of existence and human relations. These explorations will be designed for the thinking adults you are becoming, but also for the playful child you have been, and will hopefully continue to be!

Senior Passages is designed to help you make the most of the major transition you find yourself engaging in, to provide structures in which to address the many concerns that will arise at this time, and to prepare consciously for the life that lies ahead of you. To help with that preparation, we will explore the wisdom of others through their writing and literature, through your own sharing, and through play. You will learn skills for making decisions that can minimize the stress in your lives, as well as the skills you need to cope with the stress you do have. You will also develop capacities for activating your imagination and creativity, especially through the visual arts. Throughout this process, as you become more aware of your own interests and strengths, you will be identifying areas in the community where those interests and strengths are valued and needed. **Finally, you will synthesize your reflections and learning from this course in a final analysis paper.**

Rights and Responsibilities

As members of this group, you are instantly part of something special. This is not like other courses, and it is important to recognize that right off. What follows are a few general ideas to keep in mind. We will talk more as a group about specifics we may want to add or delete.

- Approach each day with the intention of doing the work (listening with your full
- attention, being present mentally and emotionally, and honoring the work of others.)
- Practice courtesy and care of others
- Be prompt- in your seat when the bell rings (before and after)
- Be prepared by having assignments completed on time and necessary materials in hand
    - (journal, pens/pencils ect...)
- Provide an atmosphere of respect and dignity towards each person.
- No i-watches or electronic devices that interfere with learning environment.

Curriculum Material

A variety of contemporary literature will be used in the course including poetry, short stories and novels. Passion and Purpose by Mathew Kelly, Life Lessons by Elisabeth Kubler-Ross and David Kessler and works by Rachel Naomi Remen and Brene Brown are possible authors.

Attendance and Participation

Because this is a participatory, interactive course, your presence benefits not only you, but the rest of us as well. It is essential to be in attendance each day as there is no substitute for what is missed in class discussions, interactions, and instruction. ***A student that misses 9 classes or more is subject to not being able to attend the end of semester retreat. Students failing multiple classes at the time of the retreat are subject to not attending due to academics**.

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Students who miss school for any reason will be required to make up tests, quizzes, assignments, or activities to receive daily participation points. It is your responsibility to find out what was missed and complete the work in a timely manner (2 days) unless arrangements have been made with the instructor. If you are absent due to a school related activity, you may make up your participation points by completing the assignment and any additional journaling assignments.

Failure to complete an assignment by the given deadline will result in the student's required attendance at a work session with Mr. Jilka in the morning to complete work. Plus the grade for the assignment will be reduced to 80% if late-up to 2 days; and it is the teacher's discretion whether work will be accepted after two days.

Supplies

Journal (fancy writing journal, theme book, notebook, etc...)(optional, we'll create one)
Pens/Paper/Pencil

Evaluation/Grading

Your overall grade in this course will be based on attendance and participation, class assignments, journals, projects, and your culminating portfolio/ exhibition. It is the students' responsibility to complete the assignments by the given due date, any late work will be lose points. Plagiarized work will result in a "0" point value and the work will be redone for half credit.

The Grading Scale to be followed will be that which is published in the Lexington High School student handbook. Your grade in this class will be assigned as follows:

15% concept connections 35% major assessments (projects, tests)
50% minor assignments (daily work, notes, homework, vocabulary)

No extra credit will be given.

Semester Grade will be based on the following criteria:

Quarter 1 = 45% / Quarter 2 = 45% / *1st Semester Exam = 10%
Quarter 3 = 45% / Quarter 4 = 45% / *2nd Semester Exam = 10%

***Please note: the final semester exam (both semesters) will count for 10% of the final semester grade each semester – as per LHS policy**

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Student Signature Parent/Guardian Signature Date

