

Pegasus California School Policies & Expectations

Mrs. Karla Scarff • Room 201 • karlascarff@pcschina.org • WeChat: KarlaScarff • www.KarlaScarff.com

I. About this class

The aim of this class is to prepare you to succeed in college and beyond by strengthening your reading, writing, and speaking in standard English. Furthermore, this class will expand your analytic, research, presentation, and creative skills. These skills will be the essential building blocks to your academic success in all your other classes. In essence, this class is at the core of Pegasus California School's vision for your success.

II. What you will learn

**Standards taken and abridged from the California State Standards for grades 9-12*

Reading Objectives

- 1.0 Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development: Students apply their knowledge of word origins to determine the meaning of new words
- 2.0 and use these accurately.
- 2.0 Reading Comprehension (Focus on Informational Materials): Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material, including a wide variety of classic and contemporary literature, magazines, newspapers, and online information.
- 3.0 Literary Response and Analysis: Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of literature that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science.

Writing Objectives

- 1.0 Writing Strategies: Students write coherent and focused essays that convey a well-defined perspective and tightly reasoned argument. The writing demonstrates students' awareness of the audience and purpose. Students progress through the stages of the writing process as needed.
- 2.0 Writing Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics): Students combine the rhetorical strategies of narration, exposition, persuasion, and description to produce texts of at least 1,500 words each.

Written and Oral Language Conventions

- 1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions: Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions.

Listening and Speaking

- 1.0 Listening and Speaking Strategies: Students formulate adroit judgments about oral communication. They deliver focused and coherent presentations of their own that convey clear and distinct perspectives and solid reasoning. They use gestures, tone, and vocabulary tailored to the audience and purpose.
- 2.0 Speaking Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics): Students deliver polished formal and extemporaneous presentations that combine the traditional rhetorical strategies of narration, exposition, persuasion, and description. Student speaking demonstrates a command of standard American English and the organizational and delivery strategies outlined in Listening and Speaking Standard 1.0.

III. Class Expectations

You will get the most out of your Pegasus experience and this class by keeping a positive attitude that is open to new things. Whenever you feel stressed, take a deep breath and remember to...

1. **Be patient**
2. **Try new things**
3. **Never give up**
4. **Ask for help**
5. **Show kindness**
6. **Have fun**
7. **Be honest**

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IV. Grading Policies

Percentage	Letter
93% to 100%	A
90% to 92.99%	A-
87% to 89.99%	B+
83% to 86.99%	B
80% to 82.99%	B-
77% to 79.99%	C+
73% to 76.99%	C
70% to 72.99%	C-
Below 69.99%	F

This class will include several major projects and assignments, as well as presentations, quizzes, and tests. Rubrics will be used to explain the objectives for each assignment. Please ensure that your assignment meets all requirements before submitting.

Unlike traditional Chinese schools, a significant portion of your grade will come from small homework and classwork assignments. To receive an 'A' in the course, you must complete and submit all assignments on time.

Avoid turning in assignments late. Late work may not be accepted. Any late work that is accepted will be granted a maximum of 50% credit.

Speak to Mrs. Scarff BEFORE any absence to arrange submission of assignments. If you are absent due to illness or extenuating circumstances, please contact Mrs. Scarff.

V. Recommended Materials

1. **Laptop computer:** You will build a camera from a light-tight container. Bring this by the second week of school.
2. **USB drive:** We will use the computer lab to prepare written work and for research purposes. Please bring an external hard drive or USB drive to class as soon as possible so that you can save your files.

VI. Plagiarism

Plagiarism refers to copying or stealing intellectual property, whether in part or whole, without giving credit to the original source. This means that you MAY NOT, under any circumstances, copy writing, images, or steal ideas from any source, including (but not limited to): the internet, books, classmates, books, magazines, etc. You will learn to properly cite works that are referenced for academic purposes.

Plagiarism is a serious offense, and it will result in a failing grade as well as disciplinary action which may include expulsion. You will NOT be allowed to make up any work that has received a failing grade due to plagiarizing.

Plagiarism is not accepted in American institutions—it is actually against the law! It is likely to result in very serious consequences, including being fired from a job, lawsuits, and expulsion from school. Avoid it at all costs while at Pegasus and beyond.

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VII. English Grammar

English grammar has its own, specialized rules. You must learn these rules and apply them early on in order to avoid low grades due to poor grammar in writing assignments. Please check Mrs. Scarff's website, www.KarlaScarff.com for a copy of the basic rules and how to apply them. Poor grammar could adversely affect your grade on an otherwise good assignment.

VIII. English Only and Verbal Correction

Mrs. Scarff wants to help you succeed. This means that the English only rule will be observed in all of Mrs. Scarff's classes, whether we are writing, discussing literature orally, or photographing around campus. Push yourself! As a fellow English language learner in my youth, I promise you it gets better!

On that note, be prepared for Mrs. Scarff to correct your verbal syntax and pronunciation. Be aware that this is necessary to hone your verbal communication, and it is not intended to shame or punish you. If you are struggling with a particular word or phrase, please ask for help one on one, Mrs. Scarff will be glad to help you practice your English!

Sign and return by Friday of week two. Additional copies of this document can be printed from Mrs. Scarff's site, www.KarlaScarff.com

I have read and understand the student expectations for the Pegasus California School photography program.

PERIOD _____

DATE _____

STUDENT NAME _____ **STUDENT**

SIGNATURE _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____