

Greetings, Seniors of Keith Street 2020,

April 14, 2020

It just occurred to me that most of you never got to see your class books from our *Oxford-like Project* titled *The Clearwater Project*. Maybe we will all get to reunite in MHS at some point before you all graduate, and then we can share it around. At least, if we never get back in person, I have that book with all of your little and big kid pictures to remind me of what might have been in room 1985. I am guessing some of you are wondering what is next in terms of academics.

CAPSTONE PROGRESS:

At this point, most of you have submitted your **four informative essays** (three we did in class), **two timed, in-class, on-demand, argumentative essays** (one we did on class) , **one self-reflection** (we did in class), and the **creative piece**. I am finding your informative pieces to be just that, very informative. I was very impressed by many of the sources you cited as they were current in date and nature, and they were relevant. Many of you found the perfect quotes and/or created the perfect paraphrases to support your excellent points with credible evidence. Other than punctuating little article titles with “ ” and big book and documentary titles with italics (which you can’t seem to get straight for some reason) your MLA citing is really coming along. While it took much of the year, many of you finally sorted out that capital letters and punctuation really are not optional, even in 2020. Finally, you are getting better at following a calendar and budgeting your time and also listening to and/or reading and following specific directions in order to meet all of the requirements of on-going projects.

I am really, really proud of you and your work! Kuddos all around!

LATE WORK:

If you have not yet completed these pieces, please do not quit. Please do not give up.

Please adhere to ALL requirements outlined in the April 2 email that I sent via Skyward AND Canvas. I will not accept the essays without highlighting borrowed material (IBMs and PCs) in one color, without highlighting and numbering answers to the 18 essential questions in another color, or without a works cited page for the essay.

This is still required for graduation. You have some time before the final, final cut off. If that date changes, I will let you know, but originally it was determined to be May 1 district-wide.

Keep sending them my way. If we get to Zorn, I want ALL OF YOU THERE!!!

GRADES/SKYWARD/WORK RECEIVED:

I beg for your patience. You may have noticed that Skyward has not changed since we left school. To reiterate, that is because **all teachers have been asked by the board office NOT to populate Skyward with new grades**. You should have read the justification from our superintendent, Dr. Hardebeck, as well as our principal, Mr. Oldenberg, in their correspondence with all of us.

I understand that we have a gray area here. Is our research work **NEW** work or not? Certainly, the research paper process is not new; it has been in progress since January and continues to be in-progress now. I know it makes it tricky as it may not be clear to some of you whether or not I have received, read, responded to, and scored your work since it is not “handed back to you” with my scribbly, handwritten feedback nor a score, AND to make that more difficult, you can’t double check for submissions in Skyward. That said, you CAN go back to each essay to see whether I wrote any feedback or not. If you go back and there is not feedback, then I did not get it. Check to see that you completed

all things necessary for submission, and please re-send it. Some of you DID send it, and I DID look at it, but you had not met submission requirements, so I sent it back to you with a request to complete the requirements.

You know me by now. I would never return an essay to you without any suggestions for improvements or complements. I actually had a meeting with Mr. Oldenberg a half an hour ago to ask if I could use Skyward as a checklist to keep us all on the same page. That is why you did not get this at noon. I have options, and I will let you know how I decide to proceed.

****And NO, I DO NOT KNOW IF YOU WILL EARN LETTER GRADES OR NOT. Sorry, but I will find out when you find out. Such decisions are well above my pay grade. No need to ask me again. I REALLY will NOT know before you do. ☹️🙄🙄**

NEXT STEPS/WHAT IS NEXT:

NOTE: This what all of our MHS seniors will be doing for the next few weeks.

1. Make all **necessary revisions** to the eight essays. Check for use of correct title punctuation, use of proper conventions, use of proper MLA citing, inclusion of adequate original support, inclusion of ample evidence from sources, and so on.
2. **Create your WIX websites.**
 - Be sure to add all **eight essays, lots of images and charts and maps and graphs and links to documentaries** and such.
 - Make it **aesthetically appealing**. Make us WANT to look at it.
 - **Think back to** when you made websites during the **multi-genre projects**. What made some projects look more professional or interesting than others?
 - What made you say, “I wish I had thought of that!”
 - or “THAT looks cool!”
 - or “Hmmm, I bet it is cool, but it is so tiny that I can’t actually see it at all.”
 - or “boy, that color background looked great at first, but it turns out it is hard to look at for so long.”
 - Think it over.
3. Consider a **peer edit** with a classmate, friend in another of my classes, or family member. What suggestions do they have? Consider their feedback carefully, but remember it is your capstone, and you have the final say.
4. **Make one final edit, and then share this with me.** The group of MHS English teachers was asked to give you until the end of April. Please try to get this in to me ASAP, so I have time to look at them all before you present.
5. Now it is time to **practice presenting**. If we were in school right now, this presenting form would look EXACTLY the same as it did for the multi-genre project, so you know exactly what to do now too. You will be awesome presenters AGAIN!

There are **two process differences**.

- First, this presentation will be a bit longer. Ohhhh, STOP IT! Remember when many of you about died when I said that your presentations for MGP would be 7-9minutes long? You said

there was no way you could possibly EVER present that long, and then I had to cut you off at 9-10!! 🤔🤔🤔 I was so proud to say, "I told you so!" You were amazing then, and you will be amazing now. Ok? Ok then. Your new time limit is 10-15 minutes long, give or take. I can't wait to hear them.

- Second, if we do not go back to school, these will be sent to me in one of the following ways, and I will only get to hear it once instead of three times. Of course, I most want to see you present, but I understand that my wish may not be top of the marquee just now.
 - We can FaceTime your presentation.
 - You can film it, and send it to me.
 - You can make and YouTube video and share it.

You can present to a family member.

- You would have them complete a rubric which I have attached.
 - You would also have them write me a message containing details about what went well and what could use refining (if we got to do this three times per person as planned, and you had a chance to troubleshoot and adjust before doing it again and again).
 - You would send me your website and their feedback, and I will trust that you did it.
6. **PRESENT directly** to me, via film and send to me, to a critique expert and send to me.

Please complete this process by May 1. Call or email me NOW if this is an issue for you.

- NOTE: You cannot wait to present TO ME until the last minute. If the presentations go 10-15 minutes, I can't watch all 60 of you on April 30 to meet the May 1 due date. Plan ahead, and schedule an appointment if we are FaceTiming.
7. **Guess what? Then the capstone will be complete. YAYAYAYAYAYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYY!!!!!!!**
8. **I REALLY AM PROUD OF YOUR HARD WORK AND PROCESS AND PRODUCT! Go ABES!**

SO IS THERE A NEW DUE DATE?

***Yes, this new due date trumps the old one. No you do not have to have the WIX to me by the 17th unless you are ready. You now have until April 30, but you want feedback anytime soon, submit it sooner. Sorry for the short notice, but the department decided at yesterday's inservice.

Email me if you have read everything above and still have questions.

I miss you all. You are being troopers, rock stars, magicians, leaders, contributors, and much, much more. I am so impressed by those of you working at grocery stores, doing deliveries for restaurants, performing nursing duties, serving as firefighters, doing manual labor, caretaking, etc. I am proud of any of you doing things for neighbors and elders and family and other folks with disabilities. Keep up the great work. Hang in there.

Reinke