

April 2015

Dear Parents of Incoming Freshmen:

Congratulations on your child's acceptance and welcome to the Jesuit community!

As an English student at Jesuit High School, your child will build language skills, foster an appreciation of literature, and ensure competence in reading, writing, listening and speaking. The literature and language skills we teach will ultimately present a compelling case for your child to lead a moral life as a man or woman for others.

The best step you can take to prepare your child for English classes at Jesuit is to encourage as much independent reading as possible. Encourage your child to read broadly in a variety of genres and to read with care. Make a variety of reading materials available. Read a book with your child and share your impressions of what you are reading.

Ninth grade English teachers will select novels, poetry, and other materials designed to prepare students for success during their years at Jesuit and beyond. The English Department has developed a curriculum plan that establishes the foundation for success in our college preparatory program.

Ninth grade students will write in various modes—reflective journaling, writing in response to text, formal essay writing—and their writing will be grounded in the fundamentals of grammar and structure.

Your child can expect approximately 30 minutes of English homework each night. You can best assist us and your child by helping to budget a healthy balance of homework time and personal time. Over the years, disciplined study habits have created success for many Jesuit students. Our department expects students to complete all assigned work on time in a responsible manner. Students who procrastinate in their daily work and who cram prior to a test or assigned due date rarely produce their best work.

You will find competent professionals in the English Department who are dedicated to teaching literature and language skills as well as Ignatian values. We look forward to working with you and your child.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Falkner', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Dan Falkner  
English Department Chair