Wow! You have me as a teacher?

You are so lucky! It’s going to be a great year ☺

Here are some things you should know…

1. (Please, please, please) **DO NOT SPEAK WHEN I AM SPEAKING!** (this includes whispering)

Why? I will lose my train of thought and sadly, my incredibly fascinating and important point will be lost to you forever. \*Put up your hand and comment/ ask questions… participate! (feel free to disagree/ add a different perspective; this makes class much more interesting and allows me to learn *from* you)

1. **Washroom BREAKS**- I understand that nature has a tendency to call during class (especially when you are bored). Sometimes you need a change of scenery or an opportunity to stretch your legs. I ask that you choose your time wisely. Do not make a noisy scene; just slip out and back in as inconspicuously as possible.

\*Realize that the longer you are out, the more content you risk missing. Do not expect us to repeat missed info.

**Procedure:**

\*1 person may leave the room at a time. Do not put up your hand to ask. You deserve the respect and dignity to “go” as you need. Be aware that there is likely someone waiting to go after you.

***Please, write your name and the time you are leaving on the board. When you return, cross off your name so that another person may leave.*** This is because it is my responsibility to know where you are, unless you have been marked absent. I am not judging the times you leave or the time you take, unless you are being unreasonable or unfair to others.

Note: I am not as understanding when students leave during the presentations of their classmates. It is distracting and adds to what is already an anxious situation for many.

1. **Seating-** Just a “heads up,” **your seat is not permanent**. I have had classes where students have demonstrated the ability to choose their seats and behave productively and respectfully towards myself and peers. I have also had classes where this has not been the case.

**I have learned to become a fan of seating plans.** They help a class run more smoothly and cut down on wasted time.

If you do not want me to choose your seat for you, you must do more than control your own behaviour. You must help to influence the behaviour of others. Peer pressure works better than a nagging teacher (note: violence, threats, or offensive language cannot be used in your methods of persuasion). It sounds lame but we really are a team this year- let’s be a good one.

1. **Garbage** - The idea that you expect someone else to clean up your mess is one that makes me *furious*. No, the caretakers are not paid to pick up your garbage (a common and frustrating argument I have heard). They are paid to keep this massive school in working order; this is no small feat. After each class, out of embarrassment, I pick up, wipe up, and empty from desks, the filth you leave behind. This takes a toll on our “relationship.” \*yes, we are in a *professional* relationship- the more positive we make it the better it is for all of us.
2. Because of the above point, I ask that you **refrain from eating and drinking in class**, except water, of course. \* bonus if you bring a refillable bottle rather than a disposable one!!!

p.s another reason is that nobody wants to smell your food or hear the crackle of your wrappers -just sayin’

\*if you are *starving*, let me know. You can take a few minutes to eat in the hall as we get started. This does not apply to period 3. Lunch activities are a choice. They do not give you a pass to eat your lunch in class. You are still expected to eat during lunch hour.

1. **Due dates**- As much as possible, you will be submitting assignments through ***Turnitin****.* I will set up a deadline and you will only be able to submit your assignment up to that point. You must be able to meet deadlines- this is a fact of life.

While I do not encourage procrastination, I have always considered myself a queen of it. With that title comes the pressure, anxiety, and lack of sleep that accompanies last minute task completion. I do not encourage you to fall into this bad habit, but if you already have, and you refuse to change your evil ways and start getting your work done ahead of time, do not expect deadlines to change or standards to lower. You have to be good at procrastination and be able to excel under the pressure, pumping out quality work, on time, with no trace of rushing in order to be successful this way.

**\*If there is a valid reason for your receiving an extension, you must contact me before the due date. (I do not mean the night before) We can negotiate a new date together, but a parent/guardian must be aware.**

**-IF YOU ARE SCHEDULED TO PRESENT, EITHER ALONE OR IN A GROUP AND YOU DO NOT SHOW UP- you will receive a mark of “0” and your group must present without you. Too often I have had students let me down when it comes to being ready.**

**-If you are sick you will require a note from your parent explaining the reason for your absence and conveying that he/she is aware that you missed your presentation. You will be expected to present the day you return, or a “0” will be entered.**

1. Email me if you are confused about lessons or assignments (but please not the night before, if you are expecting a reply). I prefer to discuss things with students in person (because I type with two fingers), but we can schedule a time to meet outside of class to get you sorted out!

[Breesheykathryn.hibbert@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Breesheykathryn.hibbert@tdsb.on.ca) (I know it’s unreasonably long. I didn’t choose it)

I check my email a few times a day- before school, at lunch, and after school. I will check it once at night around 8pm.

1. **Do not get up from your desk and move towards the door before the bell rings.** You do not need to line up. I know the school clock may be different from your phone or watch. We go by the bell. Sorry. I know you hate that, but I *strongly* dislike having a herd of students seeping into the hall before class is over.
2. Come on-time. If you are late, you will be marked late, even though I like you. Don’t try to sweet talk your way out of it!

I cannot think of anything else that is pressing… but here are some after thoughts:

-Please help out when you see me moving desks around. While my Fitbit appreciates the steps, I appreciate the help!

-Movies are not a time to nap or check your phones.

-You may use your phones to look things up (related to what we are focussed on that day). I know they are great research tools. BUT it is very rude to be on them while I am teaching, or- God forbid- we have a guest speaker!!!

\*if I see you on your phone for more than a minute while I am teaching I will stop and stare at you until you notice, hopefully making you feel awkward and deterring you from continuing this practice.

Knowing the time/place to use your phone is important. Learn self-control; being bored is not a reason to be rude. (Trust me, there have been many times during meetings I have wanted to start flipping through my phone… but impressions are important).

That said,

Be conscious of your image and the perception others have of you. I’m not saying that you should be fake or change to suit others, but your reputation should be important, and does follow you.

Be kind to others, and start building networks now. People will remember the way you treated them, and you never know whether you will meet those people again later in life.

***Just a splash about me:***

**Teaching style-**

I like humour and I am sarcastic. If this doesn’t work for you I can tone it down *for you.* I never mean to offend.

I like quotes, video clips, and music and will try to incorporate them into each period.

I get a lot out of documentaries, and hope you do too.

I like outgoing personalities, they make things more interesting.

The social part of school is as important as the content of a lesson. If I am talking at you too much, let me know. If I forget to smile, let me know- I don’t want those frowny wrinkles!

Oh and I did introduce an “incentive program” into classes last year…

Let me tell you about it…

**Life-**

I am a reformed high-school dropout. I lost my way. I made many many mistakes.

I got here the hard way. It is never too late to turn things around; I am living proof. BUT things will be a hell of a lot easier if you just apply yourself today!

I love to travel and feel that it is the best way to learn. See as many places and meet as many people as you can! …“Don't let schooling interfere with your education.” -[Mark Twain](http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/m/mark_twain.html)

I often tell stories and anecdotes about my family and friends- most of the time they are relevant. Sometimes I just think they are funny.

I want to help you. I want to care about you, but first I have to get to know you- that is why I really dislike September!!!

Whew! Enough already!

-Ms. H