

**Welcome to English/AIS class with Mrs. Gennosa!!**

**Please visit my class website at** [**www.elahelp.com**](http://www.elahelp.com)**!**

**In AIS class, everyone will become a stronger reader and writer.**

**There are three main expectations for this class:**

1. Try to do your best. Put your best self forward, believe in yourself, and apply yourself.

2. Show respect to everyone in the classroom. We need to succeed together.  
 3. Apply the strategies you learn in AIS to do well in all of your content area classes.

**Materials you will need to leave in the classroom:**  
 1. One 3-ring binder. Make sure it is sturdy and the rings meet properly.

2. One spiral notebook with that will fit in a 3-ring binder.

3. Materials that would contribute to a creative classroom are always welcome. Some

examples are glue sticks, colored pencils (or magic markers or crayons), scissors,

pens and pencils, post-it notes. Gently used items are welcome additions!

**What will we be doing in AIS?**

Much of our time in this class will be spent reading, discussing, researching, and writing. You are encouraged to combine your content-area topics with your research in AIS. One main purpose of this class is to build background knowledge to help you to understand more of what you read. You will often be allowed to select your own topics for research to meet your specific needs.

The greatest predictor of academic success is a strong vocabulary, so we will be focusing on learning new words in this class, as well as learning how words are created and related to each other. You are encouraged to bring vocabulary lists from other classes.

You will begin with a "warm up" activity to warm up your reading and thinking skills. Often the "warm up" will be a current events article or information related to a content-area class. We will often read, discuss, and write about current events from a variety of sources.  
  
You will use your spiral notebook as your writer's notebook. Articles, graphic organizers, and other resources will go in your 3-ring binder. These materials will stay in class until the end of each quarter when you will have the opportunity to take them home for your parents/guardians to review your progress and success.

I hope you all enjoy the class! The more you put into the class, the more you will get out of it!!

**Writing Task: Letter to Mrs. Gennosa**

Your first assignment will be to write a letter to me introducing yourself. In the letter please include the following:

* Start with your name (and nickname if you prefer).
* What are your favorite activities outside of school? What do you like to do?
* If you’d like, tell about friends, family, pets, vacation, or anything that would help me to get to know you.
* What are your favorite subjects in school? Tell what you like about the subjects.
* Are there any subjects in which you struggle? Tell why.
* Describe your main goals for this academic year.

Below is my letter to you and your parents/guardians:

Dear Students and Families,

Hello! My name is Mrs. Gennosa, and I am very happy to be teaching  [AIS](http://weebly-link/800700538209838280) and Writing Workshop at Sagamore Middle School. After teaching English for 14 years, and serving as a literacy coach and RTTT specialist for four years, this is a great opportunity to use my experiences and enthusiasm for literacy. I have a BA in English Education from SUNY Stony Brook, an MS in Literacy Education from Dowling College, and I am pursuing an Ed.D. in Literacy Studies at Hofstra University with a focus on using technology to strengthen the home/school connection.   
  
 At Sagamore Middle School, I am the advisor for the [Authors and Artists' Club](http://www.sagamorelit.weebly.com) which coordinates Scholastic Books sales. I hope you will check the club website for contests and special events. Please consider joining the club. We will meet on the first Thursday of each month in room 21.

I have many goals for this year. Most importantly, I want each student to strengthen his/her reading and writing skills. I hope to create a positive classroom environment where all students feel comfortable and positive. I would like for all of my students to publish their writing and celebrate being authors. I hope to share my students’ successes with their families, which will strengthen the home/school connection. Finally, I hope that my students will leave in June as more confident, more organized, and more successful in all of their academic subjects. I look forward to a great school year with you!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Gennosa