Phan

Ms. Reichmuth

Core 7

2 June 2022

To All That Aspire...and To Those That Don’t

After a year of feeling like I was drifting off at sea, going through 6th grade but never truly discovering things due to the barrier quarantine proved to be, 7th grade was an entirely different story. It felt like I was starting fresh, and not knowing anything about Ms. Reichmuth just added to the mystery. However, her class turned out to be the best language arts class I have ever had. To begin, my writing and work ethics improved in vast amounts compared to previous years. Furthermore, the relationships and communication with Ms. Reichmuth and my classmates provided fun moments of equality, learning, and everlasting memories. Lastly, this class has given me preparation for future years to come. Although it was not easy, the improvement of writing, ethics, and constant preparation in Ms. Reichmuth’s classroom made the year one I will never forget.

The biggest learning improvement was how I wrote my essays. To me, an essay used to be a couple of paragraphs, some sentences put together to make a lump of words. Now, essays have an outline in MLA and SAT format, carefully written and organized in a sensible way. This does not mean they are picture perfect, but you will see for yourself. The strenuous process of completing an outline, a rough draft, a peer edit, and finally, the finishing touches helped my essay so much. These steps are long and unnecessary, but all together, they give you a sturdy foundation for a great essay. In addition, the multiple presentations were scary and daunting, but taught me how to formally present; Ms. Reichmuth’s “Um Well So’s” stopped my habits of informal speaking. The mounds of homework given each day trained me to be more effective with my homework and plan out what I needed to do. Ms. Reichmuth’s lack of detailed instructions was the source of my panic, but also one of the sources of my responsibility. My writing, presentation, and commitment has vastly improved from this class, but something that was unparalleled was the relationship in this classroom.

Every time I was assigned to a group project, I mentally groaned. There was always someone I didn’t like, someone that was annoying or didn’t do the work. At the time, I wondered why we could not pick our own teammates, but I now know that it teaches you how to deal with life and work with the bad or annoying people in it. An enjoyable part of class was how Ms. Reichmuth brought up current issues happening in the world, and let us share our thoughts and opinions. She also did one thing completely new to me - asking us about due dates. Ms. Reichmuth allowed us to debate and decide on a reasonable date for important assignments, instead of her settling it herself (although dates were still cramped!). That made our class more in-person, rather than a Canvas-based classroom with everything online and gave us nice responsibility. All these fragments missing from past classes, have contributed to the preparation for 8th grade, high school, and beyond.

After the new touch of this classroom died down, it started turning what I thought as a fun, average classroom into an intense one instead. There were countless nights where I stayed up so late, my parents getting mad at me for not sleeping enough. All assignments seemed like they were due in half the time we needed; we were expected to be responsible for our work. This felt so much like high school, and now I am grateful it did so I knew what to expect later on. To add, so much information about the current world was gained from Project Based Learning (PBL) units that uncovered issues I never knew about. Topics such as endangered species, disabilities, and social justice projects and book clubs were pieces of unknown knowledge. For instance, the Ability Project taught us that “Every person with a disability is an individual,” (We Capable). Mindfulness sessions, inspirational book quotes, such as “Keep On Keepin’ On,” motivated me and eased my stress. One of the best motivational videos was a speech by Admiral William H. McRaven, a retired U.S. Navy admiral, who said , “If you wanna change the world, start off by making your bed…it will give you a small sense of pride, and encourage you to another task. And another.” This video was extremely meaningful to me, teaching me, even though you may be skeptical of it. Additionally, the extra credit rewarded for extraordinary work also motivated me to work my hardest , yet another thing my other classes have never done. Now, with the techniques I have learned, I exit this class prepared for future years.

This significant year is where I learned so much because of how Ms. Reichmuth taught us. First, my work and work ethics took an amazing turn with all the projects we painstakingly, but joyfully completed. Second, our communication and daily ‘habits’ in this class is one that is special and unique. Lastly, all the work that we have been assigned has provided preparation for future years. Once, a class like yours walked in through Ms. Reichmuth’s doors. Some people were bored, skeptical, confused, or eager. No matter whether they aspire or not, the tough voyage through Ms. Reichmuth’s waters are unforgettable.

Works Cited

“Disability Quotes: Inspiring Words from Persons with Disabilities.” *WeCapable*. n.d Web. 1

July 2022.

Nate Wylie Studios. “Speech To Change Your Life Today! Admiral McRaven "Make Your Bed"

Motivational Words Of Wisdom.” Online video clip. *Youtube*. Youtube. 17 Nov. 2020. Web. 1 June 2022.

Reichmuth, Cristin. 7th Grade Core. Redwood Middle School. 2022.