



# JAMES MADISON HIGH SCHOOL

LEADING THROUGH EXCELLENCE AND EFFICIENCY



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Dear Parents and Guardians:

I'd like to welcome you and your student to HISD's 2020-21 school year. I teach English 4 and look forward to getting better acquainted with students and parents alike.

This begins my 4<sup>th</sup> year at Madison. Before joining HISD, I taught English in Lincoln, Nebraska, and Clear Creek Independent School District. I taught English composition at San Jacinto College for 12 years as a part-time instructor, and that experience has coincided very well with the District's focus on preparing students for life after graduation.

The English 4 curriculum focuses on British literature primarily. During the first semester, students will learn about the first super-hero in English literature—Beowulf. We compare Beowulf to modern day figures like Black Panther, and we ask questions about fate versus faith and why we humans need a hero. Next, we move into King Arthur's court and some magical tales of chivalry. So much of the chivalric code lives on today! During the semester, students write their own short story, too. This unit encourages them to be creative, to seek solutions for themselves.

I invite you to visit with your student about these topics this semester to see how they are doing! I am available to parents and guardians through telephone, 713-433-9801, extension 10313, when we return to the building. My email is [Nancy.eakman@houstonisd.org](mailto:Nancy.eakman@houstonisd.org).

Yours truly,

*Nancy Eakman*

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