

Blodgett English Class
Instagram Information Letter

September, 2015

Dear Students and Families,

This year, I am exploring some new ways to communicate with students and their families. One of my new tools is the implementation of a class Instagram page. Instagram is a free app that allows users to share photos and comments. I plan to use it to send out notifications, review content, connect with students and their families, and showcase student work and successes.

I have created a class Instagram page, and I am inviting your student (and you, if interested) to follow. Our Instagram account is named **TeamBlodgett**. If you have any trouble finding it, please let me know.

Some questions answered:

- **Is Instagram required?** No, it is an add-on to our class culture--though I hope everyone chooses to follow.
- **What if my child doesn't have an Instagram account?** That is fine. The information on the page (if essential) will be available elsewhere. Also, since I am leaving the page open, your student will be able to see our class page through your Instagram account.
- **What about privacy concerns? If you have already opted-out of allowing photos and videos of your child for District usage under FCUSD's photo/video opt-out policy,** then I will make sure your student's image will not be on Instagram (or will be unrecognizable.) **For more information on the District's photo/video policies, please visit <http://www.fcusd.org/site/default.aspx?PageID=21346>**
- **Will you follow students or parents back?** No, I will not follow any students or parents.
- **Will your account follow anyone?** Perhaps--there are some great Instagram accounts that post things that are appropriate for your students, and so maybe we will choose to follow some English-type accounts. For instance, we may follow Smithsonian Magazine which focuses on culture and human achievements or Pearson Students, an account which provides cool tips for students.
- **Why are you leaving the account "open" and not creating a private account?** After discussing the options with the District's Public Information Office, we came to the conclusion that having an open, transparent account is in the best interest of our students and their parents, allowing them to access the account at all times; I want you to see what we are doing!
- **What about online bullying?** Since this is a school-sponsored account, all school rules apply. Students are required to be school-appropriate on this account, and will face school discipline consequences for any inappropriate behavior.

Please contact me if you have any concerns,
Thank you for all your support!

Lynn Blodgett
Cordova High School

Instagram Tips for Parents Website: <https://help.instagram.com/154475974694511/>