

Wyatt Bingham

A Letter to My Students

September 2020

Hi guys!

It is my most sincere hope that you are doing okay physically and emotionally. You should be excused if things are a bit wobbly right now. It's that way for all of us. It is easy for a teacher to get wrapped up in the importance of their subject and to take their classes too seriously as they think about their student's next years in high school, college, and beyond. I have been guilty of that more than once myself. It is easy for people in my profession to live in the future, but really, all we have is now. All you have is now. So, I want to start this letter by saying that I care more about how you are than anything you do in my class. I promise to put things into perspective.

I've spent the summer working to prepare, and I am actually excited. No, it is not the same as face to face instruction, but it does have a few advantages. I learned early in my teaching career that the person who does the work is the one who does the learning. I'll tell that story when we get together. The online method fits with my understanding of learning – I will introduce a topic, give you something to work on in your own time & way, and then we will work out the kinks before you take a test. I believe the chats and the breakout rooms will be a great space for meaningful conversations.

Let's be honest here, in this method there many more ways for you to hold back on your learning. And there is less I can do about it than in normal times. I choose to trust you. I am trusting that you will see the value of learning in this class, and you will do your part as I do mine. While I know that some of you will take a disengaged path, most of you will explore the empowerment of learning new content and skills. You will find the satisfaction in the freedom to learn in your own way, and at your own pace. All I ask is that you do your personal best and do not give up.

Please remember, we are in this together. We all show up at this place and time with a history, a unique set of experiences, family issues, personal demons with which we fight daily. Together, I believe we can help to heal each other.

Here is to a great year! I cannot wait to meet you.

WB