

POETRY OUT LOUD CLUB
at
Kingswood Regional High School

Concept:

Poetry Out Loud Club would be an extracurricular activity starting in Fall 2020 held in the afternoon or evening once per week -- either in-person or online, depending on safety and school policies. POLClub would *enhance*, not *replace* POL in the classroom.

The advisors for the club would consist of teacher volunteers from KRHS. POL Club would provide students with lessons and activities related to reading, learning, and reciting poetry. The club would be open to all students, including:

- a.) Students who do not have English first semester
- b.) Students whose English teachers have decided not to participate in POL this year
- c.) Students who are doing POL in English class but crave more POL!
- d.) Homeschooled students

Rationale:

Participation in Poetry Out Loud is a valuable experience offering students the opportunity to practice reading, analysis, and performance skills; students of all abilities can embrace this challenge as they develop their understanding of poetry and push their comfortable limits.

Each year, hundreds of KRHS students participate in POL through their English classes. Because of the annual timeline set by the state and national POL competitions, the vast majority of these students are those who have English in the first semester.

The POL Club at KRHS will seek to provide a similar experience for all students as an extracurricular activity, in addition to providing any interested students with further activities and practice. Initially, POL Club will be geared towards high school students, but if it is successful, it may be expanded to include middle school students as well.

The Schedule:

- If in-person school is in session:
 - Thursdays from 3:00-4:30pm and 6:00-7:30 pm (times alternating each week)
- If distance learning is in place:
 - Thursdays from 6:00-7:30pm (weekly)

POL Club Curriculum Plan:

Weeks 1-8: Lessons on reading and responding to poetry, performance techniques, memorization systems, selecting poems, guest poet performances and Q&A sessions

Weeks 9-12: Practice sessions, group and one-on-one workshopping

Weeks 13-14: Coffee-house performances and feedback from guest adjudicators