***MURPHEY MIDDLE SCHOOL***

***SYLLABUS- 8th GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS***

***TEACHER: MS. CHARONE LAW***

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***OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY – FRIDAY (1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.) virtual meetings are available after hours***

In order to ensure a successful academic year, all the information below should be carefully reviewed and followed.

**Course Description:**

Students will focus on comprehension and analytical reading skills through the study of a variety of authors and genres. Students will learn how successful readers think and visualize when they read, interact, and examine text. We will focus on writing narrative, expository, and argumentative essays. Additionally, we will learn how to cite textual evidence, respond to literature, summarize, and write meaningful short responses. We will utilize reading skills to analyze informational text in the Social Studies class.

**Student Course Goals**

1. Students will increase their academic vocabularies through word analysis, discovering meaning through context, and integrating new words into their writing.
2. Students will write argumentative essays with a definitive claim and the best evidence to support and develop their arguments. Students will write with the mastery of grammar and mechanics required.
3. Students will increase their reading levels by learning reading strategies and acknowledging when to apply them in effort to understand a variety of texts.

**Textbook:** ***8th Grade Collections, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt***

**Class Reading Requirement:**

We will read a variety of works in these genres. Analysis of informational and literary text will be the primary reading focus. There will be a minimum of one in-class novel per quarter as well as self-selected independent texts and articles within guidelines.

**Independent Reading Requirement:**

In addition to classroom reading, students will be responsible for reading level appropriate novels and informational texts throughout the year. Evidence of student reading will be demonstrated through projects, written responses and book discussions.

**Homework/Homework Policy:**

Students are expected to read 30 minutes every evening and define unknown vocabulary. Homework assignments are for enrichment, exercise, practice and review. Other assignments may include work that was not completed in class. I will allow time during each class period to have students copy the assignments and to review the directions and expectations.

**Late Work Policy**

* All assignments are due by the assigned date
* If a student has not completed an assignment, she/he will be required to complete the missing work outside of regular class hours for partial credit. Late assignments will be accepted. (5 points will be deducted each day the assignment is late)
* Parent/Guardian will be notified if a student fails to complete assignments.

**Plagiarism/Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is expected on all assignments. Plagiarism is defined as presenting the work of another as one’s own. Cheating on an assignment or assessment is another activity that violates ethics and school rules. Any work that exhibits cheating/plagiarism will result in a zero, parental notification, and disciplinary action may be taken.

**Attendance:**

All students are expected to be in class each day. Your grade is determined by assessments, class work, homework, participation, as well as individual and group assignments. If you are sick, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed.

**Tardy**

You are expected to report to class on time with required materials ready at the start of the class period. Students are not allowed to remain in another class or visit other staff prior to class without my permission. Emergency cases will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

**Help Time**

If a student needs additional help with an assignment beyond the academic school day or needs access to technology, please notify me before the due date. Tutoring services are available.

**Grading Policy**

All grades will be based on points and weighted using the scale below. Grades will be updated regularly; it is highly recommended that students *and* their parents login to Infinite Campus weekly to monitor progress. The following are the weighted categories for Language Arts classes:

**Weighting Scale:**

* Final Exam – 25%
* Assessments -20%
* Classwork - 15%
* Quizzes -15%
* Projects- 15%
* Homework - 10%

**A = 90% – 100% B = 80% – 89% C = 70% – 79% D = 60% – 69% F =59% or below**

**Expectations**

* Respect yourself. Respect others.
* Respect the learning environment.
* Respect the school. Follow the Code of Conduct

**Behavior and Discipline**

Students will exhibit behavior that will help them be academically successful. Students must adhere to the rules and expectations of the school and classroom.

* Electronic devices (cell phones, i-pods, video games, iPads, etc.) are not permitted. No texting or talking on phones in class
* Please dress appropriately - Do not wear revealing clothing and exposing underwear, etc.

**Individual Consequences:**

If a student is acting inappropriately or being disruptive the following steps will be taken:

1. Verbal Correction—student reminded to be on task
2. Timeout/Refocus—student moves from the group to refocus his/her attention
3. Student/ Teacher Conference
4. Phone call to parent
5. Parent/Teacher Meeting-a behavior and/or work contract may be initiated
6. Administrative Referral

I am looking forward to an exciting and challenging year of learning. Parents, please email me at any time if you wish to discuss your child’s progress. Parent involvement is encouraged and welcomed!

**Ms. Law**