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| Mrs. Weseman-Chavero |
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| **Course Integrity:****Integrity**: the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness."he is known to be a man of integrity"*Synonyms*: honesty, probity, rectitude, honor, good character, principle(s), ethics, morals, righteousness, morality, virtue, decency, fairness, scrupulousness, sincerity, truthfulness, trustworthiness As a department, we spend a tremendous amount of time, energy and care when we put together our lessons. We want to challenge all scholars to do their best work; however, it will not be successful unless every scholar commits to not cheating. Signing this document shows I am committed to not cheating, and I am aware that cheating will not be tolerated.  |

**COURSE OVERVIEW:**

Through our exploration of literature from around the world, 8th grade English students will be reading and reflecting on literature selections that focus on themes we encounter in our lives. In this class we will make connections between literature and ourselves, develop our reading, writing, critical thinking, and speaking skills, and strengthen our vocabulary and grammar knowledge. We will learn to analyze literature, to read for deeper meaning, and to think critically about what we read. We will build upon our knowledge of narrative, persuasive, analytical and informative writing styles, while learning to incorporate clearly defined thesis statements, textual evidence, smooth transitions, and various organizational strategies into our writing. Our intention in 8th grade English is to prepare for high school, college, and beyond.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

1. To improve overall reading, writing, and critical thinking skills.
2. To expand our knowledge of English vocabulary and grammar.
3. To maintain effective study habits and organizational skills.
4. To gain a strong foundation in English for use in future classes and endeavors.
5. To foster an appreciation for literature and reading.

**CURRICULUM:**:

 my Perspectives 8th grade Textbook 8th Grade ELAR TEKS

 Sharyland ISD 8th Grade ELAR Curriculum Laying the Foundation

**NOVELS:**

Touching Spirit Bear Ben Mikaelson

 House on Mango Street Sandra Cisneros

 The Giver Lois Lowry

 The Book Thief Markus Zusak

 Projekt 1065 Alan Gratz

 Refugee Alan Gratz

Maus Art Spiegelman

*\*Note: Novel selections are subject to change based on student needs and/or availability. \**

**REQUIRED SUPPLIES (Due Wednesday):** 

1. **3-subject spiral**
2. Wide ruled paper
3. 3 Pocket Folders with punched holes
4. Pens, pencils, highlighters, scissors, glue
5. Colored pencils and markers
6. 1 box tissue (for classroom use-2nd period only)
7. A set of 1 pen each (black, blue, red, green)

**CLASSROOM RULES:**

1. Arrive on time with all supplies.
2. Follow instructions the first time they are given.
3. Do not chew gum or eat during class
4. Raise your hand and wait to be called on before speaking.
5. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
6. Do NOT bully others.
7. Do NOT use devices unless given teacher permission.
8. Place your phone in the pocket holder before you sit down.
9. Be polite, helpful and kind. ***(In Summary…. Be RESPECTFUL)!***

**CONSEQUENCES:**

FIRST TIME: Verbal Warning and documented warning.

 SECOND TIME: Detention and a phone call home.

 THIRD TIME: Detention, Parent/teachers/student conference and counselor Referral.

 FOURTH TIME: Discipline referral to office. Parents contacted.

**Severe disruptions/Level II Infractions: Students sent to office immediately with a discipline referral and parents called.**

**REWARDS**

Positive praise (daily)

 Positive phone calls home (random)

 Various “surprise” treats and rewards.

 Tickets and reward coupons

**ATTENDANCE**

 To be successful in class, you must be in class. When you are not here, you miss valuable information, and we miss you. Check Google Classroom and with the teacher for missed assignments. To be successful in class, you must be in class. When you are not here, you miss valuable information and we miss you.

**CLASS BUDDIES**

Find or make a new friend in this class. Your class buddy can help you with assignments outside of class, fill you in on what you missed during an absence, and be your study partner. Be sure to exchange contact information with your class buddy.

**TARDINESS**

Tardiness is unnecessary and unacceptable. When you are tardy, you are to pick up a tardy slip from the front office. **Subsequent tardiness will result in detentions from the administrators**, phone calls home, meetings with parents, referrals.

* *If you do come to class after the bell, please enter the room quietly, sign in, take your seat quickly, and join in the classroom activity.* ***Be inconspicuous****!*

**STANDARD PROCEDURE FOR BEGINNING CLASS**

1. Enter the classroom calmly.
2. Get your Interactive textbook from the shelf
3. Take your assigned seat
4. Get your binder and writing implement from your bag
5. Read the objectives on the board.
6. Take out necessary materials for class.
7. Begin SSR or bell ringer

**HOMEWORK**

* Your homework assignment each night will be to **read for 20-30 minutes**. The purpose of this ongoing assignment is to help you to improve your reading skills in preparation for high school and college classes and to spark (or stoke) a love of reading in you.
* NewsELA: Read assigned number of articles weekly and complete quizzes. Articles will be posted on Google Classroom.
* SAT Vocabulary should be studied daily at home to prepare for weekly tests. Use Quizlet.com for flashcards, games and quizzes.
	+ Search for dstephens23 to find SAT Quizlets to practice during the week.

**MAKE-UP WORK/FAILED ASSIGNMENT**
 **1. Late Assignments-** Pre-AP students **will not be allowed** to submit late **MINOR** work. They will be allowed to submit late **MAJOR** assignments with a progressive grade penalty of **15 points** per day with only **two days** to complete the major assignment.

**2. Failing Major Assignments-**Pre-AP students **will not be allowed to retest or redo major assignments** unless 50% of the class fails

**3. Excused Absences**-Students with an Excused Absence will have the opportunity to make up missed work at the rate of 1 day for 1 day missed, with a maximum of 5 days. Students who are absent **but had prior notice** of a major or minor assignment must complete the assignment on the 1st day back to school. Student will receive a 0 for any major or minor assignment not made up within the allotted time.

 **4. Unexcused Absences**-Students with an Unexcused Absence may not make up missed work. However, if the unexcused absence is determined to be caused by extenuating circumstances, makeup work may be allowed. The grade for the makeup work will be no higher than a 70.

**SEMESTER EXAMS**

Semester exams will be comprehensive and count as 20% of the semester grade. Should the semester exam cause a student to fail the semester, the student has the option of retesting. The student must retest within 3 days, and the retest will be the sole responsibility of the student. The retest grade will be no higher than a 70.

*\*Check Mrs. Weseman-Chavero’s Google Classroom after absences for missed assignments, news, and information. Missed assignments will be found in the first purple drawer next to the door. It is the student’s responsibility to pick up their work and to complete all the assignments.*

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_