



**I believe that each and every one of you can be successful in this class and I will work hard to help you succeed. Together we can accomplish a great deal.**

**A. Expectations/Procedure**

1. Be prepared with a pen, pencil, notebook, textbook, reading book
2. Be on time
3. Be ready to participate
4. Ask permission to leave the room and use sign-out sheet
5. Be respectful and courteous to everyone
6. Bring a positive attitude and have fun

**B. Materials Needed**

1. Notebook (three-ring binder) where you will keep important class materials.
2. Book Cover – books are very expensive and we need to take care of them.
3. Pen/Pencil – blue or black ink for all written work. Drafts and homework may be done in pen or pencil. You may use colored ink, highlighters,, etc. when taking notes, but please use only blue or black ink for assignments turned in for a grade.

**C. Classroom Procedures**

1. All papers should have a proper heading in the upper left corner:
  - a. Your full name
  - b. The date
  - c. Subject and block
  - d. Topic/page #
  - e. Use margins

**D. Academic Support**

1. Academic Support is a structured study time. Take advantage of this time to complete assignments, to obtain help from a teacher, to use the library, to make up missed work, etc.
2. In order to travel, fill out a pass accurately.
3. Bring all materials you will need to complete your work with you. You will not be allowed to go to lockers.

## **E. Home-Learning**

1. Generally you will have some type of home-learning assignment each night, so please plan accordingly. Check the homework chart and copy into your assignment book.
2. I am available for help during academic support and before and after school. Check with me to arrange a time to get some help.

## **F. Grading**

- |                              |     |
|------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Home-Learning Experiences | 25% |
| 2. Classwork                 | 25% |
| 3. Quizzes                   | 25% |
| 4. Tests                     | 25% |

Remember, you will have many more home assignments within that 25% than you do tests. One or two test grades can make up an entire 25% of your grade. So it is important that we manage our time, study and prepare for tests.

All projects and assignments will be assigned one of these values depending on the amount of time and effort expected. For example a project which requires several days of preparation may count as a test, where a project which requires one or two classes may be counted as classwork.

I use the same numerical grading system as described in the student handbook.

Since eighth grade English is primarily a literature based class, we will be doing a great deal of reading in several different genres. We will continue your study of grammar, usage, mechanics, as well as units on vocabulary development, and both written and oral communication. Throughout the year you will be working individually, with a peer or in cooperative groups, but the grades you earn will be your own.

Many of the skills you learn in this class will be used in other classes as well. Interdisciplinary assignments and projects will sometimes be given throughout the year.

You will be required to read a book a month during the school year. You will be expected to keep reading logs and you will be doing different types of projects and presentations on these independent reading books.

I know that this will be a productive and rewarding year for all of us. We have a great deal to accomplish, and each and every one of you has a great deal to offer. I ask you to share your knowledge and your frustrations, take responsibility for your own actions and to respect yourself and others.

Please do not hesitate to discuss problems or to ask for help. It is much better to ask than to spend hours building up anger and frustration when a solution can usually be provided quickly and easily. Even though it was centuries ago, I still remember what it was like to be an eighth grader. Please call me or e mail me if you have questions or concerns. (744-8356 or [tpowers@interlakes.org](mailto:tpowers@interlakes.org))

**LET THE GAMES BEGIN!**

