September 8, 2015

Dear Parents and Students,

I am so excited for the school year to start. Here is some information that will help you begin the year in English Language Arts (ELA). I am sending the full syllabus home and it can be viewed at [www.mvsd11.org/mrs-barker-hicks-class/](http://www.mvsd11.org/mrs-barker-hicks-class/)

Office Hours: 7:40-8:00 am or 11:40-12:30 or by appointment [dbarker@mvsd11.org](mailto:dbarker@mvsd11.org) or 208.347.2411

***Study Hall: 7:40-8:00 and from 11:40-12:10 ELA classroom***

**Supplies:**

Students will need a **three ring binder**, the school provided **agenda**, (leave all pages in your agenda for the year), a **thumb drive**, the class assigned **novel** when applicable or personal reading material, **grammar work book**, **highlighter, pen,** & **pencil**. Students may have a larger **binder** with multiple subjects but will need an ELA section. This is needed in class every day as it will have handouts and will be used daily. Many students find a zippered binder & zippered pouch (thumb drive, highlighter, pen & pencil) helps them to be more organized. Students need these eight items every day to ELA. Students- please have these supplies out on your desk each morning. ***Being prepared for class is your first priority! There will be prizes for all students who are prepared for the week; this includes updated and signed agenda on Monday evening. We will update the agendas with all assignments and events on Monday. Please review the agenda with your child. We will update throughout the week as well. Please use this as one communication tool between home and school. I check them daily to make sure assignments are update so students can be set up for success!***

**Junior High Late Assignments Policy:** All assignments are due at a set time. If assignments are late, **ten** percent will be deducted for each day late. After **two** days, **no credit** will be given. In addition, there is a “3-strike” rule which allows students to use this policy only three times in a nine week period.

If assignments are late due to an **excused absence,** students will have two days to get in late assignments with no penalty (note this does not say two days for every day absent). Teachers may extend this time if there are extenuating circumstances.

Students may see me for help each morning from 7:40-8:00 and from 11:40-12:10. Students are welcome to have a working lunch in my room at anytime. If students are not prepared for class (supplies & or homework) in the morning they will be required to have a working lunch with me to finish their work, make up for lack of participation in class, and or to help them become more organized. Students will take a tardy and return to their locker if they do not have the required materials for class. They will also have to get an admittance slip from the office before returning to class.

**Rewards-Earn a Mighty Mountaineer 3 ways this year:**

1. Teacher notices acts of kindness, good character, or extra effort.
2. Weekly perfect attendance \*no tardies or absences
3. Weekly grade check with all assignments completed.

Every week a Mighty Mountaineer will be drawn for each grade level 6th-8th for a small prize.

At the end of each month, a Mighty Mountaineer will be drawn for each grade level, 6th-8th for a MOUNTAINEER BAG.

Questions: Contact Mrs. Doramus

**Quarter Grades will be weighted in the following categories:**

**Quarter Grades will be calculated using total points. Assignments will include:**

Daily Assignments/Discussions

Formal Writing

Projects

Tests/Quizzes

**Semester Grades** will be determined by the weighted average of the 1st nine weeks (40%), the 2nd nine weeks (40%), and a semester final (20%).

**Classroom Responsibilities and Expectations**

1. Have your **three ring binder**, **agenda**, **thumb drive**, **novels**, **grammar work book**, **highlighter**, **pen** and **pencil** at your desk when the tardy bell rings.
2. Participate each day in class and take responsibility for your learning.
3. ***Respect classmates by being kind and listening to their ideas in class discussions.***
4. Update your agenda daily and share it with your parents at home. Use the agenda to keep on schedule.
5. Observe all rules and responsibilities in the student handbook.

We are looking forward to a very exciting and educational year. We are asking that both the student and parents read over this grading plan and responsibilities for ELA classes. Please sign and return this contract by Thursday, September 10, 2015. The additional copy is for your use at home. **In addition, have your ELA binder ready with your supplies and required material for your first grade in ELA on September 10th.**

Needed material check list for ELA: You are required to have an organized ELA binder. Additional items will be required weekly.

* 3 ring binder, a zippered trapper keeper type 3 ring binder is best
* Agenda inside the front of the binder
* Signed contract is the next item in binder- one copy is for parents to keep at home
* Pencil Pouch or zippered area inside your binder for the following;
  + Thumb drive
  + Highlighter
  + Pencil
  + Pens
* Class assigned novel and/or personal reading material if we are not working on a novel to be used for silent reading
* Grammar Workbook

\*All of these supplies are needed daily in class. Students need to learn to bring all needed supplies to class and home each night. Bringing your ELA binder with your agenda in it home each night will help you be successful in all of your Jr. High classes. Please see Mrs. Doramus if you need some assistance with school supplies.

Sincerely,

Devon Barker-Hicks

Jr. High English Language Arts

National Board Certified Teacher

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Remember to keep one copy at home and one copy in your ELA binder.