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Welcome! I am looking forward to a successful and exciting year in the English classroom. I have prepared this syallbus with useful information that you will need to understand my plans and expectations for this year.

**Course Description**

In English 8, students will study spelling and vocabulary, completing a unit each week, as well as focus on improving grammar skills. Students will also write various pieces for this class, starting with paragraphs up to full essays. Speaking and listening will be another main focus in this class as students will be required to give speeches throughout the year.

Student progress will be evaluated using a variety of methods including daily homework, essays, tests, and participation in class and group activities.

**Supplies**

* Notebook or a 3-ring binder and looseleaf paper
* Composition notebook for journaling
* Folder
* Pens (blue or black ink ONLY) and/or pencils

Students are expected to come to class prepared, which means having ALL supplies and materials with you and ready to go! Come prepared!

**Student Success**

No matter your skills, you should be able to find success in my classroom. All students have different skills and abilities, and my job is to help each student individually IMPROVE. I want to help each of you find success. So, as a result, this policy means that some students may receive different assignments or requirements. Skill levels between students are as different as the students themselves, so do not always expect the same treatment.

**Grading Policy**

Grades will be based on the District’s grading scale shown below:

 93-100=A

 85-92=B

 77-84=C

 70-76=D

 69 and below=F

Grades will be calculated based on the following system:

 Writing assignments/papers=25%

 Tests/quizzes=25%

 Quarter Test=20%

 Daily work=10%

 Class participation=10%

 Vocabulary quizzes=10%

**Rewards**

* Classes with students who possess good attitudes, have few discipline problems, and turn in quality homework on a consisten basis will be rewarded.
* Rewards will be determined by the teacher and may be in the form of free time, fun activities, or food/beverages in class.

**Credit Recovery**

* Students are eligible for summer school credit recovery if they meet the school policy requirements and if they have three or fewer missing assignments for each quarter.
* Any assignments or tests below 80% throughout the semester will need to be completed successfully.
* Students will not have the option of redoing work originally completed with a group or partner, and work with zeroes received due to abscences or cheating will also be unavailable for credit recovery.

**Assistance**

I encourage all students to meet with me outside of class when they feel they need any extra help. I am available from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. I can also be reached by email at Jenna.Jewell@k12.sd.us for help outside of the regularly scheduled hours.

**Classroom Procedures and Expectations**

RESPECT and RESPONSIBILITY are requirements in this classroom. Expect to be respected and be respectful of others in this classroom. You don’t have to like everyone, but in the classroom you will respect them. Disrespecting others in any way (property, ideas, etc.) will not be tolerated. This also includes respecting the classroom itself: when you leave, your area must be cleaned up. Students will be held responsible for the choices they make in my classroom, and choices have consequences, so make good choices.

The following rules have been implemented in this classroom to ensure fairness among all students and to create an organized and productive envrionment conducive to learning for all students.

**Leaving the Classroom**

* Do NOT make it a habit to use the bathroom during my class every day. Please use the water fountain between classes, or bring a water bottle (with a lid!) with you to class.
* Do not ask to go to the office, another teacher’s room, or use the phone during class. These things need to be done on your own time.

 **Make-up/Late Assignments**

* Following an absence, the student (YOU) are responsible for finding out about make-up assignments and for completing the make-up work in a timely manner. If you know you are going to be gone (for a school-related activities, appointments, etc.), you are responsible for getting your assignments BEFORE you leave.
* Students turning in late work will receive a deduction in points. Work one day late will be docked 50%, two days late 75%, and three days late will receive a zero.

 **Tardies**

* Arrive on time prepared to learn. When the bell rings, you need to be in your seat or you will be counted tardy. Walking into the classroom as the bell rings means that you are late.
* If you forget something in your locker and need to get it, you will need to take a tardy to go get it.

 **Cheating**

* There will be some assignments where I let you work in groups or work with a partner, but any extra “help” from classmates that is not explicitly approved by me is cheating. If you have any questions about the assignment, please ask me.
* If you are caught cheating on any assignment or test, you will receive a zero on that it with no chance to make up the lost points. Mr. Hulscher and your parents will be notifed, and further consequences will be decided by Mr. Hulscher.
* Do not put yourself in a position to cheat or help someone else cheat. The end result is not worth it—you end up hurting yourself more by cheating than by just turning in the assignment late or incomplete.

 **Detention**

* If you are wasting class time or are disrupting class, you will be assigned to work on some “vocabulary enrichment.” If this is not handed in BEFORE 8:30 the following morning, you will receive detention instead.
* You may also be asked to stay after class for a discussion with me, or be required to write an apology note to those offended by the disruption, as the circumstances dictate.
* If you consistently come unprepared for class (i.e., no book, writing utensils, etc.) you will receive a detention.
* Detention may be assigned for any disrespectful or irresponsible behavior in the classroom. Remember, respect is a requirement in this classroom!

 **Other Expectations**

* Please hand in assignments at the BEGINNING of class; anything after that is considered LATE.
* You will be required to bring a free-reading book to class each day. During each quarter, you need to complete an independent reading project on a book of your choice. If there is any down time (i.e., if you finish an assignment early) you should have no problem finding something to do if you have your free reading book with you. ALWAYS have this book in class with you!
* Follow directions when they are given. Remember, getting your education is practice for the “real” world, and out there, you will be expected to follow directions you are given.
* Water (with a lid) is allowed in the classroom. Other beverages, food, and candy are not, unless otherwise stated. Gum is allowed, but only if it is not seen or heard.
* Seats are assigned, and you are expected to be in your assigned seat. Also, if changes to the seating chart need to be made, I reserve the right to make those changes at my discretion.
* Talking is permitted when your hand is raised and you have been called on. Students are also expected to talk quietly and respectfully during small group activities. When I am talking, you, the students, should be listening.
* My desk and the areas immediately around it are my personal space, or my “locker.” I don’t go into your locker and take your things, so please don’t take things from my desk or my space. There will be materials for you to use elsewhere in the room.
* If I cannot read an answer on a handwritten assignment or test, it will be counted incorrect.
* If I receive an assignment or test with no name on it, points will be deducted.
* If you are working on an assignment for another class and have not completed your English assignment, I will take away the other assignment and you will receive detention.
* Writing in books or on tables is defacement of school property and will be punished.