Please refer to the Jinks Middle School Classroom Expectations for acceptable behaviors within the classroom.

**Classroom Procedures**

1. Get items for classroom out of backpack and place backpack on the shelf.
2. Start Bellwork.
3. Raise hand to speak and wait for the ball.
4. Use hand-sanitizer while standing on the rug.
5. No food or drinks unless it is a planned activity. (Yes, this includes gum!) We are not allowed to spray for bugs in our school and have to bring in a professional exterminator when a problem occurs, so anything that will cause bugs to visit our room in unwelcome.

Jinks Middle School

8th Grade Aspire, Intensive Reading, and ELA

August 15, 2018

Dear Students,

Welcome. My name is Louis Davis and I am excited to have your child as one of my students this year. My classroom is a dynamic learning environment in which students are expected to excel. We will work collaboratively as we reach individual learning goals and potentials.

Together you and I will support your child through the learning process and toward their greatest individual potential. Instruction in my class is driven by student learning; therefore assignments and due dates may change as a result of the pace of learning. There may be occasions when more time is needed before mastery can be assessed, and there may be circumstances when additional instruction is necessary. It is imperative that we have open lines of communication for updates, questions, concerns, and feedback.

Please carefully read and discuss with your child the information contained herein, then sign and return the last page to me no later than August 23, 2018.

**Supply List**

* All students must have 1 and a half inch 3 ring binder and a packet of 5 dividers.

 **Methods of communication with parents**

I will communicate with parents via Focus/Parent Portal, email, and my class website. Other school news will be communicated via IRIS alerts, the Jinks Middle School Facebook page, and the Twitter account @JinksPrincipal.

My email address is [davislc@bay.k12.fl.us](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CGina%5CDesktop%5CCoach%20Davis%20Website%5Cdavislc%40bay.k12.fl.us).

**Grading**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Grade** | **Numerical Value** | **Verbal Interpretation** |
| A | 100% - 90% | Outstanding Progress |
| B | 89% - 80% | Above Average |
| C | 79% - 70% | Average Progress |
| D | 69% - 60% | Lowest Acceptable Progress |
| F | 59% - 50% | Failure |

**ELA**

The purpose of this course is to provide grade 8 students, using texts of high complexity, integrated language arts study in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language for college and career preparation and readiness.

**GENERAL NOTES**

The content should include, but not be limited to, the following:

* + active reading of varied texts for what they say explicitly, as well as the logical inferences that can be drawn
	+ analysis of literature and informational texts from varied literary periods to examine:
	+ text craft and structure
	+ elements of literature
	+ arguments and claims supported by textual evidence
* power and impact of language
* influence of history, culture, and setting on language
* personal critical and aesthetic response
* writing for varied purposes
* developing and supporting argumentative claims
* crafting coherent, supported informative/expository texts
* responding to literature for personal and analytical purposes
* writing narratives to develop real or imagined events
* writing to sources using text- based evidence and reasoning
* effective listening, speaking, and viewing strategies with emphasis on the use of evidence to support or refute a claim in multimedia presentations, class discussions, and extended text discussions
* collaboration amongst peers

**Special Notes**

Instructional Practices: Teaching from well-written, grade-level instructional materials enhances students' content area knowledge and also strengthens their ability to comprehend longer, complex reading passages on any topic for any purpose. Using the following instructional practices also helps student learning.

* Reading assignments from longer text passages, as well as shorter ones when text is extremely complex.
* Making close reading and rereading of texts central to lessons.
* Asking high-level, text-specific questions and requiring high-level, complex tasks and assignments.
* Requiring students to support answers with evidence from the text.
* Providing extensive text-based research and writing opportunities (claims and evidence).

**Intensive Reading**

The Intensive Reading classes will use the Achieve 3000 program this year. It is an online program, that when used with fidelity, will guide our students to increase their reading levels.

**Late work**

Any student work not turned in by that assignment’s due date will be entered into Focus as \*\*, which averages as a zero for the purposes of grading. If a student turns in an assignment late (for example, right before quarter grades must be entered), the teacher will grade assignments in the order in which they were turned in. There will be no grade penalty for assignments turned in late.

**Summative assessments**

My class will use common summative assessments, which are assessed at 95% of the student’s grade.

**Re-assessments**

Re-assessments must be given within five school days (in which the student was present) of the original assessment. Students will complete reassessment request form, which will require parent signature, in order to be given a reassessment. The reassessment form will include reflection and remediation.

**Plagiarism**

Cheating and/or plagiarism will be designated in Focus as \*\* which averages as a zero, with a note/comment regarding cheating/plagiarism. Additional appropriate action, as determined by the teacher and/or site administration, may be taken. Disciplinary actions in response to cheating/plagiarism will be in accordance with the Bay District Schools Discipline Matrix.

**Extra credit**

Extra credit is not used in Bay District Schools.

**HBS**

Points will be awarded in Class Charts for positive behavior. Class Charts Point Redemption may occur on a daily basis. Students may choose to redeem points for prizes from the store, participation in daily activities, or large scale activities. Field trips, school sponsored events, and community events will all be incorporated into the redemption of Class Charts points. Instructions with information on how to sign up for Class Charts will be sent home within the next couple of weeks.

**Student Self-Selected Reading**

Books covering a wide range of interests and levels of maturity are available in the classroom for students to read and check out. Parents, discuss with your child their book selections, particularly those labeled “tough issues.” Your child may pick any book to read, and may switch their selection at any time upon your discretion.

**Chromebook/Technology**

Chromebook is an essential learning tool in my class and at Jinks Middle School. It is our expectation that students bring their Chromebook charged every day.

* Students may NOT bring Chromebook chargers to school.
* Do not video/audio record or photograph anyone without their permission and permission from the teacher.
* Bay District School Board Policy allows access to the Internet via BayNet (the school network) only. Violations of this policy will result in a discipline referral. Students may use technology only when directed and for the intended purpose. Please refer to Bay District Policy for further information.

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