**Deerlake Middle School**

**8th Grade English Language Arts**

Eighth grade language arts students will be immersed in reading and writing activities this year. Students will read selections from a variety of genres including: novels, short stories, plays, biographies, poetry, and non-fiction informational texts. They will then synthesize, analyze, and respond to what they read through classrooms discussions, collaborative activities, and various writing assignments including argumentative, informative, and narrative writing.

The language arts course focuses on the Language Arts Florida State Standards, and those stress the importance of students being able to read, understand, summarize, and compare all types of text as well as respond to the piece effectively. We will spend time building their oral communication skills and presentation skills in order to make them confident presenters of information. They will be guided the students through each step of the writing process. Our goal will be to produce thoughtful, polished, finished products that reflect the writing and grammar skills they are gaining. Reading and writing are integrated and will be taught in tandem.

Students will have a quarterly reading project due before the end of each nine weeks. Details of the assignment will be given to them at the beginning of the quarter as well as the due dates. Please monitor your child to be sure they are making progress on the project each week. These assignments will be assessment grades.

**Policies and Procedures**

**Classroom Expectations:** I value the rights of all of my students and insist on a positive, respectful learning environment for every student. Students are required to be responsible for their actions and materials.

**Required Materials**: It is imperative that students come to class prepared to learn each day. They should have: binder, dividers, pencils, blue/black/red pens, notebook paper and multiple colored highlighters.

**Grading and Evaluation:**

Classwork/Homework 30%                           Assessments & Projects 70%

**Grading Scale:**

A+ to A- = 100% - 90%     B+ to B- = 89% – 80%        C+ to C- = 79% – 70%

D+ to D- = 69% - 60%       F = Below 60%

**Make-up/Late Work Policy:**  Make-up work is due within three days after an absence. Late classwork, homework, & assessments will be deducted 25% each day. Tests may be retaken if the grade is unsatisfactory (D or F). However, the new grade will not be higher that 70%. THIS WILL BE ENFORCED.

**Plagiarism Policy:** All work that you turn in must be your own. Please do not give information to another student to copy or use another student’s work to complete your own assignments. There may be times that I assign a group project and information will be shared, but I make those exceptions clear. Plagiarism will result in a zero for all parties involved and parent notification. Multiple occurrences will result in disciplinary action.

**Class Procedures**

**What do I do when I enter the classroom?**

Check the board for Bell Ringer instructions. Sharpen pencils if necessary.  Be seated and ready for class when the bell rings.

**Where do I find my assignments?**

The Daily Agenda will display the assignments for the day and homework is posted and labeled by period on the designated board. As you enter, the Bell Ringer assignment will be on the board.

The class website will house weekly assignments, important dates, and some of the handouts.

**How do I head my paper?**

Name, date, class period should be in the top right hand corner with the assignment title centered on the first line of the paper.

**Where do I turn in assignments?**

The teacher will instruct you to pass papers forward or to turn in to the class bin labeled with the corresponding period. If you come in late, be sure to place assignments in the bin for credit.

**What do I do if I am absent?**

Check the teacher website for assignments. Any papers given out while you were absent will be available in the Absent bin. *Check there upon your return. You will have three days to make-up the missed assignment.  Make an appointment to take missed assessments before school ONLY.*

**What is expected of me during class?**

A positive work ethic is expected of all students and myself. Any activities that distract from learning are not acceptable and will not be permitted.

* No cell phones or electronic devices, unless being used for educational purposes; permission must be granted
* You may NOT have any food in class and drinks MUST be in approved containers to be stored in backpacks. If gum chewing becomes an issue you will be asked to dispose of it.

**What should I do if I do not understand something for homework?**

Be sure to listen carefully during the instructions and ask clarifying questions then. If you have questions/problems and you are at home, ask a parent or friend. You may email me your specific question.  If I do not answer the email that evening, come see me in the morning.

**What if I forgot my homework?**

You will need to turn it in the following day for **half credit**.  Late projects, book reports, and major writing assignments are deducted **25 percent per day.**

**What if my computer is down or I couldn’t access the on-line textbook or type/print an assignment?**

The first step is to not wait until the night before it is due, but those things happen. Go to the library as soon as you arrive on campus and use the computers there to complete the assignment.  ***NO external drives (school policy).***

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: ­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*\*This letter should be signed and returned by Friday, August 17, 2018.*

*A copy of this letter is on my website for future reference.*

*\*\*Textbooks will be loaned as needed; unless parents request a textbook in writing.*