

# Guide to Success

In Mr. Chisholm's 8<sup>th</sup> grade English and United States History classes for 2011-2012

## ABSENT:

Schoolwork is an important responsibility. After an excused absence, students will have one day for each day absent to complete missed assignments. It is the responsibility of students to make up missed work. Assignments are listed on a clipboard and on the Internet (see Web Site section). Any missing worksheets not available on the Internet will be left in the student resource area.

## ASSIGNMENT PASSES:

Life happens. Sometimes assignments cannot be completed or turned in. Each quarter, every student will receive two assignment passes that will wave a typical work assignment (25 points). This excludes notebook assignments, quizzes, and tests. The teacher reserves the right to reject the assignment pass for selected work assignments. **WARNING:** Use the passes wisely. If a student uses the passes carelessly, they will not have any passes left when they are truly needed.

## BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS:

Students are expected to follow the class, grade level, and school rules at all times. If a student chooses to misbehave, the general consequences are:

- ✓ One verbal warning=no penalty
- ✓ Two verbal warnings=five minutes after school
- ✓ Three verbal warnings=fifteen minutes after school with parent notification
- ✓ Continued misbehavior may result in one or more of the following:
  - Extended detention after school
  - Focus room detention
  - Official school detention
  - Referral to the assistant principal
  - Parent/teacher conference

Depending on the offense and frequency, punishments can vary. See the binder reminder for additional rules and penalties.

## CHEATING: DON'T DO IT!

Cheating is copying work from someone else or giving work to someone else. Cheating will result in losing credit for the assignment and further penalties.

## CLASS RULES:

1. Follow directions the first time given
2. Bring materials to class
3. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself
4. Stay in your seat unless you have permission to do otherwise
5. Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak

## DETENTION:

There are after school classroom detentions for students who break class, grade level, and school rules. Students who fail to show for detention will receive further disciplinary action.

If a detention slip is issued for an after school detention, a parent/legal guardian signature is required on the slip. Students without a signed detention slip will be considered a "no show" and receive further disciplinary action.

## EXCUSES:

*It's at home...I lost it...I had things to do...I didn't know we had homework...the Martians beamed it to the mother ship....*

Excuses lead to failure. To succeed, students should write down assignments in their binder reminders, set aside a specific time each night for homework, and complete all assignments.

## EXTRA CREDIT:

Extra credit assignments are sometimes offered each quarter for social studies and language arts. Extra credit is **not** issued on a request basis nor should students expect extra credit assignments to significantly raise their grades.



## GRADING:

Grades are determined by averaging scores on assignments that are grouped in weighted categories. Student grades are posted in the classroom on a weekly basis and are available on the Internet everyday.

## LATE? TARDY? UH-OH!

Students need to be on time to class. If students are anywhere else other than sitting in their assigned seats when the bell rings, they are considered tardy. The tardy policy of the school will be strictly enforced.

## LATE WORK:

No single assignment will greatly affect the student's grade. Most assignments are short and only become homework if not completed in class. The class grade the student earns is the result of long-term behavior and choices.

When work is due, it is due. Assignments are listed on the classroom whiteboard and the Internet. Missing assignments are worth 50% (F) of the assignment value. Work submitted up to seven days after the due date will receive 59% of assignment value (F+). Turn work in on time to earn full credit.

### LEAVING THE CLASSROOM:

Students cannot leave the classroom without a pass from the teacher. If a student must leave school early, the parent/legal guardian must make arrangements with the front office beforehand.

### LOCKERS VERSUS BACKPACKS:

A locker is an important tool. It allows students to hold books and supplies so they don't have to lug around a heavy backpack all day. While backpacks are great for storage, they destroy books, notebooks, and other fragile supplies. If books are damaged, fines will be issued; if notebooks are mangled, grades may suffer. Use the locker!

### NEATNESS:

Students must turn in work that is neat and legible. Assignments quickly put together, tattered, or needing attention will not be accepted or will receive a reduced grade.

### NOTEBOOKS:

Students in language arts will need **two separate** notebooks: one for daily writing and one for note taking (see supplies list). Students in social studies will need one notebook (see supplies list). A single notebook with dividers for different classes is not acceptable. Students will cut, paste, and color numerous assignments into these notebooks. Students are encouraged to bring their own colored pencils, scissors, and glue sticks.

### PENMANSHIP:

It is important that students write legibly. Good handwriting enhances an assignment; bad handwriting prevents the teacher from reading what is written. If the teacher cannot read an assignment, the paper will receive little or no credit. Unless otherwise stated, all assignments must be completed in black ink or with a No. 2 pencil.

### READING:

**Readers are leaders!** Reading makes people smarter. Bring a book to school daily for sustained silent reading (SSR) and for those moments when you finish an assignment early.



### RESTROOMS:

Students will receive three restroom passes each quarter. Without a restroom pass, students will receive a five-minute detention for each use of the facilities. Provisions will be made for students with health problems.

### SUPPLIES:

Each day you must have:

1. Several #2 pencils
2. Black ink pens
3. Colored ink pens (any color except black)
4. Two 8 x 10 or 8½ x 11 spiral notebooks
5. One 9 ½ x 6 (or similar dimensions) spiral notebook for language arts
6. Lined loose-leaf paper/filler paper
7. A binder or folder to hold returned assignments
8. Highlighter—any color
9. Binder reminder (school supplied)

Strongly recommended each day:

1. Scissors
2. Glue sticks
3. Colored pencils

Outside of the classroom you will need:

1. A regular and quiet place to work
2. Work supplies: paper, pens, pencils, etc.
3. A good dictionary and thesaurus
4. Access to the Internet
5. Art and craft supplies



### WEB SITE:

What do I have to do today? Each day, classroom activities are listed on the Internet for students and parents. In addition, grades, worksheets, and information are also available online. A teacher contact email address can be accessed through this website as well.

Website Address:  
**[www.door24.org](http://www.door24.org)**

Copies of this sheet can be obtained from the Extras page on the website.

Please sign below indicating that you read and understand the rules and policies of Mr. Chisholm's classroom.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name (print)

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name (print)

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