

## **GO FOR THE GOLD**

### **POSITIVE INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

Purpose: To create a positive environment and motivate students to reach for their highest potential inside and outside of the classroom.

The students will carry their blue positive incentive cards with them all day. The ultimate goal is for each student to keep their card "clean".

Blue card categories:

- A. Demonstrate kindness/respect to others and property.
- B. Come to school and come prepared for class. (*Jr high staff will be updating attendance tally section due to covid.*)
- C. Remain focused and work throughout the period.
- D. Demonstrate respect by using the number system to ask permission.
- E. Follow all directions by all faculty and staff.

If the students earn...

**Gold:** Card is clean. (*An average of 5 students per class normally earn gold status.*) *Gold students earn extra privileges, ie; Monday dress down shirt.*)

**Silver:** Card has between 1-10 tallies circled for the week. (*Most students earn silver status. Silver status earns normal student privileges, ie; Sitting with friends at lunch. Silver status is wonderful!*)

**Bronze:** Card has more than 10 tallies circled for the week or all 4 tallies circled in one category for the week. (*Most students do not earn bronze. Students who earn bronze status will be closely monitored by staff until they prove they can be responsible and trustworthy. If a student earns bronze status he or she will email their parents and their teachers to explain how they earned bronze and what changes they intend to make so it doesn't occur again.*)

## Reading

Ms. Cohan Rm 119 [atcohan@cps.edu](mailto:atcohan@cps.edu)

Inclusion teachers Mrs. Reilly [acreilly@cps.edu](mailto:acreilly@cps.edu) (for 8th)

and Ms. Snyder [cbomalley@cps.edu](mailto:cbomalley@cps.edu) (for 6th)

Welcome back! Our school theme is LEGO- Loving Every Growth Opportunity. Our ultimate goal this year is to have every student engaged in reading, in and out of school. We will be encouraging that growth in many different ways during the school day and hope you will continue the growth opportunity at home.

### Homeroom Procedures (for 119 students):

**Breakfast is served at 7:45, please enter the Rotunda doors. Otherwise, line up at the door closest to Homan Ave. Entry is at 8:00 sharp! Dismissal is out the same door at 3:00. Remember phones are not allowed on campus. All staff are trained to confiscate any phone that is out on school grounds and send it to the office for a parent to pick up. More information will follow regarding graduation, trips, and 8th Grade contracts. Please make sure your email is always updated with Mrs. Pienta if needed.**

### Curriculum:

Our Balanced Literacy block consists of vocabulary, sustained silent reading, and lessons based on Common Core Standards. Students will be reading books in our class independently on a daily basis. We will be encouraging them to continue their reading at home each night. Our class library is full of young adult literature, some of which may touch on sensitive subjects or may have curse words. The students are encouraged to borrow books from us, but if this makes you uncomfortable, please feel free to escort your child to the Chicago Public Library, Bookies, or Half Price Books and choose a book together. The rest of the curriculum will be a mixture of Greek and Latin Affixes, comprehension, fluency, and responding to literature. The consumable text, *My Perspective* and novels will be used to facilitate these skills along with the computer based program, IXL.

### Core Reading Standards for First Quarter:

- Citing Text Evidence with support
- Close reading
- Critical-Thinking
- Inferencing
- Greek and Latin Affixes
- Sustained silent reading

### **Novels for the year:**

6th grade- Touching Spirit Bear

Ghost of Spirit Bear

7th grade- The Outsiders

A Wrinkle in Time

8th grade- The Giver

Monster

### **Grading:**

The school wide system is on a 10 point scale: 90-100 is an A, 80-89 is a B, etc. Aspen will be updated weekly and needs to be monitored by a guardian and the student. Various assignments will be evaluated with a grade using a point system: i.e. a journal entry may be worth 5 points and the student might earn 4 out of the 5 total points. As a schoolwide initiative, a proper heading is mandatory for work to be graded. Also, there are no individual extra credit opportunities, so please encourage your child to do their best and hand in all work on time throughout the entire quarter. A code of "Msg", with a value of zero, will show if there is missing work due to any reason. Absent work needs to be completed within a couple days upon return and late work will be accepted for reduced value up to 2 days late. A zero will be entered for group collaboration in the event of an absence.

Grades will be calculated using these categories:

Assignments, Discussions-50% Tests, Quizzes, Projects-40% Group Collaboration-10%

### **Homework**

Time will be allocated during each period for free reading and occasionally a grade will be given for the engagement of this activity. We expect every student to continue reading at home every night for at least 20 minutes. Some students can keep track of their free-read book well enough to take it to and from school to read. However, other students find it easier to keep one book at school and one at home. Please help your child figure out the best routine for them. Homework assignments will consist of nightly reading, weekly IXL assignments, and occasional assignments that will enhance the standard we are working on in class.

**Agendas and Absent Work:**

Agendas are provided by the school and are a great tool for organizing. Homework is written in every room on the homework chart. If your child is absent, please know there is a secretary in every room keeping track of what they missed and what needs to be completed and handed in. This information along with any worksheets will be placed in their mailbox. Any tests missed due to absence will be on my front board and the student is responsible for finding time to make them up .

**Communication**

Email us if there are any concerns. You could also write us a note or call the school at 773-535-2640. We will get back to you within 24 hours.