

Reading

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First quarter has officially ended! Student report cards will go home with kids on Wednesday, October 25th. If needed, I will be available to conference on Thursday, October 26th. I will have in-person and virtual/phone appointments available. Advanced sign-up is required.

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. 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. **IXL for reading will be due Thursday mornings at 7:30 AM.**

2nd Q skill focus:

- **Vocabulary**~ affixes (Latin/Greek prefixes, roots, suffixes)
- **Sustained Silent Reading**~ 10 mins in class **and** 20 mins every night at home
- **Aspects of Nonfiction**~ central idea, tone, text evidence
- **Aspects of Fiction**~ inference, summarizing, point of view, theme

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.

2nd Q grades will be calculated using these categories:

55%- Tests, Quizzes, and Projects 45% -Individual Work, Group Work, and Discussions

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.

We are encouraging independence and perseverance. We know some students may need some support at home with homework but we are asking that parents be mindful of too much support. If parents consistently have their children fixing every mistake, teachers will find it difficult to determine where a student may need extra support.

A special note to 8th grade parents on attendance, Excused absences are still considered absences. We will take into consideration long term illnesses like Covid or Strep when tracking absences for the goal of nine or less days to be eligible for graduation.

Blue Card System:

Please refer to first quarter information if you have any questions about the blue card behavior system. The agenda holds your child's cards and should be monitored by parents. You will be able to determine if any behavioral or organizational issues need to be addressed at home.

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.