**Disclosure Document**

**Mrs. Cox's 8th Grade English 2016-2017**

**Room # 307 ~ (801)610-8754 ext. 441307 ~ email:** **lcox@alpinedistrict.org**

**Class website: mrscoxenglishcorner.weebly.com**

Welcome to the new school year! The purpose of 8th grade English is to shape reading, writing, and inquiry skills through literature and grammar. Our theme for the year is empathy. We will be reading a variety of texts that support this theme, and we will also explore many different types of literature. We will find connections from these pieces of literature that can be drawn into today's world and even in your own lives. Through our explorations, we will also increase our confidence in writing and critical thinking. I look forward to a great year!

Please read the following policies that are expected of students in my classroom.
**MATERIALS NEEDED EVERY CLASS PERIOD:**

* Paper, Pen (only black or blue) and/or Pencil and paper
* One package of 100 count 3x3 Sticky Notes or Post-It Notes
* 3-Ring Binder (with pockets) for organization with three dividers

 **Notes**

 **Caught'ya Sentences**

 **Homework**

* School Planner (this will act as a hall pass for students when needed)
* Silent Reading Book
* Composition Notebook (please no spiral bound). This will be used for *this class* only as a writing journal.

**ABSENCES & TARDIES:**

Every student is responsible for coming to class. In-class experiences cannot be recreated when a student has missed and so he/she will miss important aspects of the class. It is also important for students to come on time. Students must be in his/her seat with all the necessary materials when the bell rings each day. Unexcused absences and tardies will affect a student’s participation grade.

**HOMEWORK:**

Students will be required to do some writing and reading outside of class. There may be some assignments that the students are given in class; if not completed, students will be required to finish it at home.

**READING:** Reading is an important aspect of learning. Studies have shown that not only does it increase vocabulary, comprehension, grammar, but it also increases a person’s overall intelligence. This year, students will be required to read 7 books a term. Reading logs will be turned in at the end of each term and will NOT be accepted without a parent/guardian's signature.

**WRITING:** We will be doing a lot of writing in this class. This is an English class, so be prepared to write.

**LATE WORK & MAKE-UP WORK:**

Students will be allowed to turn in two late assignments per quarter and not have any points docked. Any other late assignments will not be accepted. If students are absent, they are responsible for finding out what assignments they missed. If a student is absent the day an assignment is given, they will have one week from their return to make up the assignment. If students are absent the day a project was due but was in attendance when the assignment was given, the assignment will be due the class period they return to class. **For extenuating circumstances, I am more than willing to accommodate but please contact me ASAP.**

Students may redo any assignment that they received a 79% or below on. The maximum amount of points on any redo assignment is 80%.

**CITIZENSHIP:**

Citizenship grades will be given based on attendance, participation, and class behavior. Office referrals will result in a full grade drop in citizenship.

Any inappropriate behavior will be addressed in following ways:

1. Warning: After the first warning, each additional warning will result in a loss of 5 participation points.
2. Student/Teacher Conference
3. Parent Conference with a behavior contract
4. Detention or removal from class

**PARTICIPATION:**

Students are expected to participate in class and will receive points based on their participation. Failure to come to class, being prepared, tardies, truancies, and failure to follow class rules will result in a loss of participation points. Parents, please be aware that I do take ALL points away from students when they are absent, however, if the absence is excused, those points will be returned. Please give me 10 school days to change those. After 5 excused absences per term are reported and I have not heard from you as parents as to why, students will not be able to get these points back.

**EXTRA CREDIT:**

\***I will NOT allow students to turn in any extra credit if they have any *missing* assignments.**

Every term, I will allow students to donate (this means they will not be getting them back) two **grade-level appropriate** novels to the classroom library. For each novel, they will receive a 1% grade increase, but they can only turn in two novels per term.

\*Please, have these be used novels. I do not expect students/parents to buy novels to donate. Just donate novels that are intact and grade level appropriate.

Students will only be able to earn 3% of extra credit a term. .

**GRADING POLICY:**

Grading will be based on a weighted scale as follows:

I will be using the following grading scale.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Participation | 10% |
| Assignments/Projects | 80% |
| Reading | 10% |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | B+ = 87-89% | C+ = 77-79% | D+ = 67-69% | F = 0-59% |
| A = 94-100% | B = 83-86% | C = 73-76% | D = 63-66% |  |
| A- = 90-93% | B- = 80-82% | C- = 70-72 % | D- = 60-62% |  |

**PLAIGARISM:** 8th grade students know that they need to give proper credit when citing sources. If students are found to be plagiarizing, they will be asked to re-do the assignment.

**PEER EDITING:** Peer editing will often be done in class. Reading and responding to the written work of other students is an important part of the writing process. **By signing this disclosure document, you, as parent or legal guardian, give your student permission to participate in peer-editing activities and understand class objectives. Please contact me at the school with any concerns.**

**VIDEO CLIPS:** We will view movie and TV clips to help students learn literary elements. We will not be watching any movie or show in its entirety, but short clips that assist the student's ability to visualize how literary elements work. The clips will be for general audiences and will follow district guidelines.

**NOVELS:** The following is a list of novels we will be reading in class this year:

*Prisoner B-3087* by Alan Gratz

*Ender’s Game* by Orson Scott Card

*How They Croaked* by Georgia Bragg with Kevin O’Malley

**Classroom Rules:**

* The classroom is a NO WHINING ZONE.
* Have Respect: This means respect for yourselves (by accepting responsibility for your actions), for your classmates, for the school, supplies, and for me as the teacher. We want this to be a safe zone classroom.
* NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE PERMITTED IN THE CLASSROOM at any time. These items will be confiscated if seen and turned in to the front office.

N**OTE: I am an individual who dreads talking on the telephone; I don’t even like talking to my sisters (whom I adore) on the phone. My preferred means of contact is e-mail, and I’m quick to respond.**

(Please detach this sheet and turn in to Mrs. Cox. Have your student keep this copy of the disclosure document in his/her 3-ring binder under the Notes.)

## Parents & Students: When you sign on the following lines, you are stating that you have read, understand, and agree to Mrs. Cox's 8th Grade Policies and Procedures.

We are reading a novel called *Ender’s Game* by Orson Scott Card in our English classes. This is a novel we feel has significant literary/social merit due to the themes addressed in it, and it has won several awards. We will be focusing our unit on discussing the nature of good and evil, as well as discussing bullying, which is a problem many young adults are currently facing. We are sending this letter home because the novel does contain some mature language and some war violence (nothing over a PG-13 rating). We will also be summarizing parts of the novel as we read. If, however, you don’t feel comfortable with your student reading *Ender’s Game*, we have a list of alternate novels for him/her. Please contact your student’s English teacher with any questions or concerns, including requesting the alternate list. Thank you!

I give permission to (student name)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to read *Ender’s Game*.

I DO NOT give permission to (Student name)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to read *Ender’s Game*.

Student Name (Printed):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name (Printed):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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

Parent Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (I email home weekly with updated progress reports and information on upcoming assignment due dates. Please make sure this email is current in Skyward so that you receive those emails)

Parent Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Work Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please use the space below to indicate any special circumstances, seating preferences, or areas of focus for learning regarding your student that I need to be aware of.