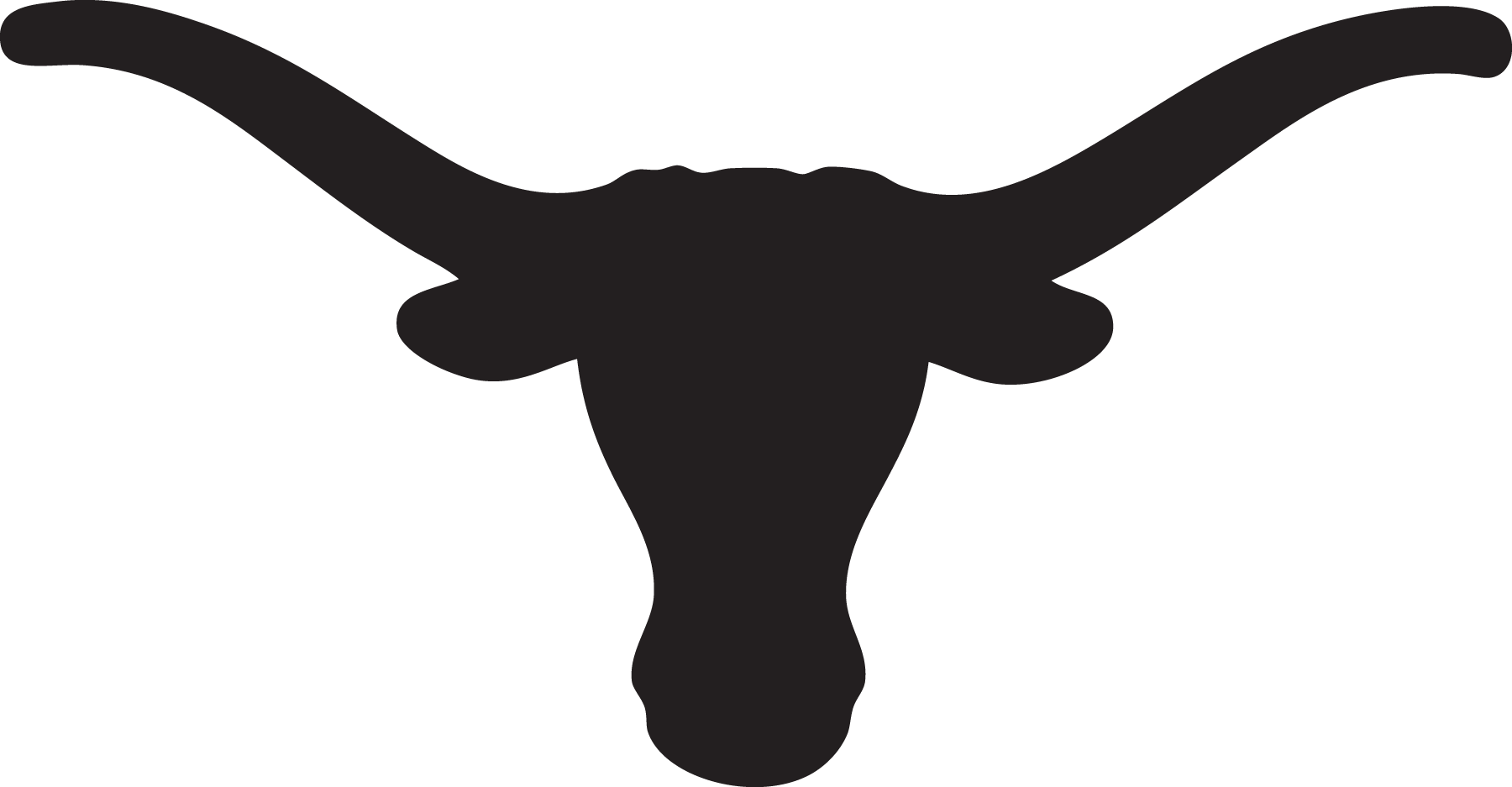
**F A R W E L L  J U N I O R  H I G H  S C H O O L**

***2017-2018***



**“Keep Junior High Weird”**

***Eighth Grade English***

***1st Six Weeks Syllabus***

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**Course Description:** Eighth grade English is designed to involve the student in active learning; applying reading, writing, listening, speaking, and viewing skills that are aligned with the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).  This course is also intended to foster fearless writers and readers who are intelligent, creative, hard working, and brave.

**Writing:** We will be working on many “ideas” this six weeks.  You will create pre-writing ideas that can be used to write masterpieces later on in the school year.  You will also write reflections over our novel.

**Grammar:** Assignments will consist of activities taken from Shurley English, Grammar Rock, and other resources.  Writing activities will apply the grammatical concepts learned.

**Dolch Site Words:**This is a list of words that eighth graders should never ever ever ever ever ever ever ever misspell.  Prepare to fall in love with this list.

**Reading Passages**:  There will be times when reading passages are brought in to connect with our writing.  These passages will follow skills taught in reading and be used to model proficient writing.

**Grading:**

***Class Work***-40%

Grammar

Pre-Writing

Ideas

Spelling

Journal

***Unit Tests****-*30%

Questions Over Reading Passages

Grammar

Spelling

Writing

***Participation-***10% (You will start out with a 100% in the gradebook.)

Discussions

Engagement in Classwork

Group Work

***6 Week Test****-*20%

**M:**The letter **M** in the grade book means that an assignment is **MISSING**.  This will count as a zero until the assignment has been completed and a grade is entered.

*“I know that you are smart, capable and resilient.  This life is going to provide you with plenty of mess, but you have what it takes to overcome it.  Therefore, I would like to help!  I will drop your lowest “work” grade.  No questions asked.  That grade will just disappear.”*

**Zeros Are Not Permitted:** Please make sure that you complete all of the work that I assign. Those of you who do not complete your work or do not turn in your homework will need to return it the next morning at 8:00. Remember that 15 points will be taken off your total points. You will stay after school to finish your work if it is not completed or if you do not turn in your homework. Yes, this will mean that you will be late for after-school practice. The coaches know are aware of this, so make sure that you are responsible with your class work and homework.

**Tests:**My views on preparing for a test and taking a test have changed over the years.  Tests are supposed to tell me what you know.  They are also supposed to tell me how well I have taught you.  Going back to grad school has changed my views on tests yet again.  Tests make me nervous.  I want to help you with this, so we will prepare for a test like we are going into a battle.  Preparation and training will help us slay tests so that we will be victorious.

**AR (Accelerated Reading):**Eighth graders MAY participate in AR if they so choose.  AR will not be factored in as a grade for eighth graders.  Eighth graders MAY participate in AR for fun…This means that for every 25 points you earn, you will be treated to a fun prize; Sonic drink, 5 points to be applied on a test, homework pass, holiday treat bag, etc.  Eighth graders that earn 60 AR points will attend the end of the year trip for a day of celebration! PS-I refuse to “nag”…AR is YOURS; not mine.

**Attendance:**Attendance is crucial to keep up with the classwork and to be an active member of the classroom’s learning community.  If you miss class time, you are missing the instruction time needed to learn a skill.  However, if you must miss class, you are required to make up missed work in a timely manner.

The makeup work policy is “the number of days absent, plus one.” For example, if you are absent 3 days, you will have 4 days, including the day you return to school, to complete the assignments.

*Stock Show People*-Check with me before you leave, so that I can give you your work.  Be forewarned…there is a possibility that we will do more or less work when you are gone, so make sure that you meet with me as soon as you return to school.

**Tardies:** 7th period students will be arriving to class right after lunch, so you should be okay. Students who have 9th period English must be mindful about being on time. Most of you have athletics during 8th period, so you are going to have to make it a mission to be on time. Please note that you will be counted tardy if you arrive after the bell rings. Your coaches can contact the office if athletics runs late.

**Procedures:** Following classroom procedures will help foster a positive learning environment. This will also make your teacher very happy.

Hold Up 1 Finger-“I have something great to say.”

Hold Up 2 Fingers-“I wish to leave my seat.”

Hold Up 3 Fingers-“I have a question and would like some help.”

A focus activity will be on the board when you arrive to class. Please make sure that you begin working on this as soon as you get to your seat.

No backpacks are allowed in the classroom. We just do not have the room.

Please bring a pencil to class because you will need a writing utensil in order to put your imagination and thoughts into words…on paper.

**Rules:** You and your classmates will create a “Social Contract” so that you will be empowered to create a SAFE atmosphere in our classroom. You will answer the following questions:

* How do you want to be treated by me?
* How do you want to be treated by each other?
* How do you think I want to be treated by you?
* How do you want to treat each other when there is a conflict?

Treating others with respect and kindness is key. Consequences will require you answering the four questions:

* What are you doing?
* What are you supposed to be doing?
* Are you doing it?
* What are YOU going to do about it?

Students that choose to be disrespectful to the teacher or to another student will answer these four questions. However, if they choose to continue this negative behavior, they will go to detention.

**Tutoring:**I am available for after-school tutoring on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.   Please make an appointment with me if you would like some extra help or encouragement with your assignments or preparing for a test.

**Homework:**Many of you are very busy after school.  Some of you are busy wearing a cape and fighting crime, holding down a job, taking care of a family member, playing football, cheering on the Steers, or binge watching your favorite show on Netflix.  I get this.  I too have other activities besides what I do at Farwell Junior High School.  So…I do not assign homework UNLESS it is needed.  Just remember that when I do assign homework, I mean for you to complete it, and bring it back on the assigned date.

**Dance-it-out:**There is a time for us to be serious.  There is a time for us to feel frustrated.  There is a time for us to be stressed.  There will be times when life will not be so grand.  We will just have to dance-it-out!  This will happen…

**First Assignment:**Let someone you live with read over this syllabus.  Discuss it with them.  Bring this signed syllabus back to class and receive a 100%.  I will check it, and you will take it home.

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Student’s Signature Date

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Your Person’s Signature Date