Mr. McFarland’s 7th Grade English Language Arts

and Reading Class

Room 125

465-6040

Email: scott.mcfarland@nebo.edu

Website: [**http://mrmcfarlandmnjhs.weebly.com**](http://mrmcfarlandmnjhs.weebly.com/)

Welcome to Mt. Nebo Jr. High! During this school year you will improve your writing skills in such genres as memoirs, short stories, persuasive essays, poetry, and research reports. You will also enhance your reading comprehension, critical thinking, and listening and speaking skills. We are going to have an excellent year!

 **Required Materials**

The following materials will be required in class each day, starting Wednesday, August 20th , 2014:

·  Your school binder (you will receive this in your advisory class)
·  Binder paper or notebook
·  Binder tabs specifically set aside for this class (at least 2; you will receive tabs in advisory as well)
·  At least one No. 2 pencil and a pen (black or blue ink please)
·  Your school planner

. A personal reading book

. Your copy of our current novel (Honors only)
·  A positive attitude!

Please note that these items are necessary EVERY DAY OF CLASS. Missing materials or materials borrowed from me will cost you points or result in disciplinary action.

**Classroom Expectations**

* **Be in your seat ready to work before the tardy bell rings.** We need to use every minute of class time. Students arriving late are a distraction and they miss out on classroom instruction. Punctuality is a valuable workplace skill.
* **Obtain permission before speaking or leaving your seat.** Students wandering around the classroom or speaking out of turn disrupt the learning process. Let’s practice good manners in the classroom.
* **Quickly follow directions the first time they are given.** Teachers and school leaders give directions for good reason. We expect them to be followed.
* **Treat everyone and their property with respect.**  Like an eggshell, property and feelings are much harder to fix than they are to break. Please treat everyone’s property and feelings better than even your own. Respect goes a long way in all areas of life.

**Behavior Policy**

 In support of the idea that the classroom is preparation for life and the workplace, I will be giving many students classroom jobs to perform that will give students the opportunity to contribute to their learning environment, participate appropriately, and learn life skills and workplace habits. Students who practice good behavior will have great opportunity to earn in-class rewards. Students who misbehave will miss out on in-class rewards, their parents will be contacted, the school administration will become involved, or other parent-teacher-student behavior modification plans will be put in place. It all depends on the student: do you want to be rewarded greatly for being a good citizen, or do you want to be miserable?

**Grading**

        You will notice my grade breakdown on Aspire (SIS) is different from most teachers. In an effort to align with the new Utah Core Standards and more accurately show student mastery, all class assignments and tests will be graded and listed in Aspire by the common core curriculum standard being measured. Please look at <http://www.uen.org/core/core.do?courseNum=4270> for more information on the Utah Core Standards and look on Aspire (www.nebo.edu/SIS) for further information on grading.

**Grade Breakdown**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | D- | F |
| 93.5 | 89.5 | 85.5 | 82.5 | 79.5 | 74.5 | 69.5 | 64.5 | 59.5 | 54.5 | 49.5 | 0.00 |

**Late Policy**

It will be your responsibility to make up any work missed due to absence. You will have one week to hand in any missed assignments for full credit. After that, it is considered late and loses value by ten percent of the maximum score per week late, bottoming out at a maximum of half credit. If your absence is unexcused, you will not be allowed to make up the assignment.

**Literature**

This year we will be reading all or part of some or all of the following:

* The Outsiders
* A Midsummer Night’s Dream
* The Giver
* The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle
* A Long Way from Chicago
* The Devil’s Arithmetic
* A variety of short stories and articles

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me.

**Visual Media**

This year we will be viewing part of or the full length version of some or all of the following:

* The Outsiders
* A Midsummer Night’s Dream
* The Devil’s Arithmetic
* Disney’s Hercules
* A variety of segments from Youtube and other worthy internet sources

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me.

**Especially for Parents**

The success of a student is greatly impacted by the involvement of parents and/or guardians. Take the time to get involved with what your child is learning. Also, please feel free to come visit our classroom. I encourage parents to be involved in their students’ education. I will send out sporadic updates via a newsletter of sorts. If you have internet access, you may monitor your child’s progress at: [www.nebo.edu/SIS](http://www.nebo.edu/SIS). I will also post periodic updated and resources to my Website: [http://mrmcfarlandmnjhs.weebly.com](http://mrmcfarlandmnjhs.weebly.com/) If you wish to speak with me privately, I am available both before and after school (after is best). I’m also available by email at scott.mcfarland@nebo.edu or you may call the school at 465-6040 and ask for me. I look forward to working with your student. Let’s make this a successful year!

**7th Grade English Language Arts and Reading Disclosure Signature Sheet**

I have read, understand, and agree to abide by Mr. McFarland’s Classroom Policy.
Student Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
Print Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I have read, understand, and agree with Mr. McFarland’s Disclosure Document. I understand that my student will be viewing some or all of the visual media and literature, and I understand that Mr. McFarland will use prudent judgment.
Parent/Guardian signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Things I should know about your student (health, hobbies, family, interests, etc.):
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(Please return this to me by email, mail, or by hand. If returning a signed paper copy, please return just this page. Thank you!)