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**Ms. Criscenti’s Class**

**Middle School Language Arts**

**Hanley International Academy**

Welcome to Language Arts! This year we will be working together to learn through literature and writing. I am looking forward to getting to know each and every one of you, as well as expanding our brains within the world of Language Arts!

**Class Expectations**

I expect you to come in everyday prepared and ready to learn. The following expectations will be met at all times:

* Give 110% everyday
* Be a team player
* Participate
* Bullying will not be tolerated

Additionally – the Middle School Norms will be strictly enforced.

* Come into class ON TIME and PREPARED every day
* Only materials necessary for learning need to be in the classroom
* Be in uniform every day
* Follow all school, classroom, and lunchroom policies
* Respect yourself, your teacher, and your classmates by exhibiting proper behavior and using appropriate language in the hall and in classrooms

**Class Materials**

For this class, you will be expected to have your own materials each and every day. Coming to class prepared is a large part of being successful, and therefore, there will be consequences for not being prepared for class. At any point during the year, I may check your supplies for class points.

Each day, you will be required to bring the following items with you:

* A folder designated specifically for our class
* A notebook or binder with writing paper
* A writing utensil (pencil or blue/black pen)
* Your agenda

**Grading Policy**

I grade on a point-based system. Every assignment is work points and all of your points get added together for a final grade. It is completely possible to do well in this class, even if you have a weak area. There will be an equal balance of all types of assignments, which include the following:

-Class work -Homework -Projects

-Journals -Writing Assignments -Vocabulary

-Notes -Quizzes -Tests

**Assignments**

You are responsible for your own work. We will have a mix of in class and at home assignments. Every assignment is an important part of your grade, and a lack of participation will hurt your overall grade. You need to do the work to pass the class!

Late work: I do not accept late work. It is important that we stay on schedule and you have assignments in on the day they are due.

I will compile no name papers in the room and it is your responsibility, if you did not get a paper back upon my returning them, to check the no-name pile and re-submit it with your name on it.

**Extra Credit**

I will offer extra credit throughout the trimesters, usually in the form of small assignments, research opportunities, or other random things as they come up. You must be present in class in order to be eligible for extra credit.

You can also begin the year with some extra credit by bringing in a box of tissues or a bottle of hand sanitizer (or both).

**Absent Procedure**

If you are absent, you should check the absent work binder for the previous day(s) assignments. Do not ask me what we did when you were gone. Check the binder and pick up any handouts as instructed for each day. Then, if you have additional questions, you can come talk to me about make-up work.

It is your responsibility to turn in make-up work. I will not ask you for it. Make sure you get it turned in in a timely fashion. For every day you miss class, you have an equal amount of time to make up work. (1 absent day = 1 day to make up work, 2 = 2, etc.)

**Bathroom Passes**

There are no bathroom passes allowed. Designated bathroom times will be enforced throughout the entire middle school level.

**Rewards and Discipline**

You will have the chance to earn Madness Points during class and work towards rewards.

Understand that all policies for both our classroom and the school/middle school will be enforced daily. You should be aware that after your initial warning, continued disregard for these rules will result in the following:

1st offense – Verbal warning

2nd offense – Phone call and written reflection/detention

3rd offense – Student discipline form and meet with an administrator

4th offense – Second write up and required parent support day

5th offense – Third write up and suspension

*(Please note consequences may change based upon the severity or frequency of misbehavior)*

**Keep Me Happy!**

Very few things really bother me, but in order to make our classroom the best it can be, here are some things to keep in mind:

* I do not tolerate bullying, inappropriate language, or rude behavior. There will be consequences if you cannot behave appropriately.

The bottom line is that if we work together, we will have an enjoyable class experience. The better the class behavior and participation, the more we can get done, and as we get through more material, we will have more time for the things you enjoy!

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns:

313-875-8888 SCriscenti@hanleyacademy.org

**Your first assignment:**

For five points, bring this contract back signed by both you and your parent(s). This tells me that you agree to all classroom rules and policies and understand your responsibility as the student.

Once I return them to you with a grade, you should keep this in your Language Arts Folder at all times.

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

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

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.” -Mark Twain