



Dear Parents of the 8th Grade Class,

I write this letter to you as I finish closing up the classroom for the summer and look ahead to August when we will come together once again for our much anticipated 8th grade year! By the time you read this letter, the 2012-13 school year will be upon us.

My highest goal for the class this year is to support each student in being ready for High School in every way possible, no matter where they choose to go, also for college, and the years beyond. Some of the highlights of the 8th grade year will include the 8th grade projects and project presentations, the 8th grade class trip and of course, graduation!

During our 7th grade year, the class assisted with weekly 1st grade reading groups. I will be looking for more opportunities this year for the 8th grade class to help out in the lower grades, both as a group and individually.

When students arrive at school on the first day back, they will need to be prepared for the most academically challenging year so far. Every student will need to be very well organized, be ready to stay on top of all assignments given, have a great attitude and be ready to work together as a team to create the most successful and memorable year possible.

The Main Lesson blocks I plan to cover this year include the following:
History—Age of Discovery and Revolution; American History; World History
Science—Meteorology; Chemistry; Anatomy
English Literature—Creative Writing and the Short Story

In addition to these Main Lesson blocks, we will also spend time studying William Shakespeare, reading and learning his play, *A Mid-Summer Night's Dream*, in preparation for our 8th grade play. There will also be regular writing assignments, reading assignments and math assignments, as well as, block projects, spelling/vocabulary work, and block tests. Every student will need to have a system in place for keeping track of assignments, completing and turning them in on time.

Our class will continue to work with the soprano and alto recorders again this year. We will learn many new songs, add the tenor recorder, and possibly the soprano and bass recorders, to expand our recorder ensemble.

The first day back to school is Tuesday, August 21. I would like to have our **Annual Class-Picnic-Before-the-School-Year-Starts, Sunday afternoon, August 12, at Mountain Oak School, from 4-6pm**. Please bring your own picnic. We will meet outside under the "Gathering Tree". Feel free to bring things to play with—I will have on hand Frisbees, balls, and other items for fun and games. Please mark your calendar! I look forward to seeing everyone there!

Our **first 8th grade class Parents Evening will take place on Tuesday, August 28, from 5:30-7:00pm**. From 5:30 until 6:00pm will be a **"Happy Half Hour" for socializing. Please bring an appetizer/finger-food/dessert to share**. I will provide beverages, plates, napkins and an appetizer to two also. From 6:00pm we will have an activity and introductions followed by the main part of the meeting. Please mark your calendar for these important events!

As you read this I am hoping that this letter finds you and your family rested and rejuvenated from the summer, and almost ready for the 8th grade year!

Best regards,

DeeAnn Morgan

Mountain Oak School

8th Grade Class Supply List

2012-13 School Year

Student Materials

- Pink Pearl erasers
- Mechanical pencils- 7mm with refill leads/erasers
- A 12-18" ruler with inches and centimeter
- A **good** pencil sharpener
- 1 student calendar/organizer/notebook to write due dates for assignments, projects, events
- A 3-ring binder
- 1 package of notebook paper—wide-ruled
- Pocket dividers with tabs for History, Science, Language Arts and Math
- 1 **good** compass that locks in place (for geometry)
- 1 reusable water bottle marked with student's name
- A good pair of athletic shoes that stay on the student's feet
- Clothing that is dress code—please refer to the student handbook

Classroom Supplies

- 2 boxes of facial tissue--everyone
- 1 package of glue sticks **or** 1 package of tape (clear or invisible)
- 1 box of band-aids **or** 1 bag of cough drops
- 1 ream of white copy paper **or** 1 package of notebook paper—wide-ruled
- 1 package of large paper clips **or** 1 package of medium to large binder clip
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- 1 package of large paper clips **or** 1 package of medium to large binder clips
- 1 of cough drops