

September 2010

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade year is an important and exciting year for students! They are the oldest in the building and with that, the year offers them unique activities and privileges. Additionally, 8<sup>th</sup> grade is the gateway to high school and the challenges and excitement of those years. In our ongoing effort to prepare your students for the rigors of Joel Barlow, or wherever they attend high school, John Read Middle School abides by the following policies as a means to help your student achieve independence and personal responsibility for their learning.

The following grade-wide policies are in place as a way to clarify for you what our expectations are for the students. These policies guide us as we discuss late or incomplete homework, class preparation, or possible issues concerning behavior, which may affect your student and the students around him or her.

Homework: The purposes of student homework assignments are to clarify and practice skills and ideas taught in class, or to prepare students for an activity planned for the next day in class. When homework is not attended to or done late, students lose the benefit of the work (at home and in school) and the educative value of the homework may become irrelevant.

- 1) Late work or incomplete homework will receive reduced credit based on each individual teacher's policies. Teachers will advise the students as to their policy.
- 2) Students will be required to attend **Lunch & Learn** during their assigned lunch period to complete any missing work. Alternatively, teachers reserve the right to request students come to school early to complete work or receive extra help.
- 3) When missed homework is a chronic issue, we reserve the right to withhold the privilege of participating in field trips and other extra curricular activities.

Class Preparation: In order to gain the maximum benefit from class work and discussions, students need to be prepared for class. The learning of skills and concepts through active participation in class discussions and class activities is a critical component of the learning process. Each day, students must have a pen or pencil with them, the required books or other materials, and paper for note taking. When students arrive unprepared, they will be expected to attend **Lunch & Learn** to make up the work.

Communication: Students are encouraged to be self-advocates. If there is a concern or question, the first contact should be between the student and the classroom teacher. The guidance counselor is also a good resource for students who have questions or concerns. Contact home for all students is made by way of quarterly progress reports and report cards. Phone calls or e-mails will be made in the event a student is currently or is in danger of failing, or if there is a chronic concern. Additionally, parents will be

contacted if a student is issued a detention. Oh, and don't be surprised if you receive a phone call home to tell you how pleased we are about your student!!

Personal Responsibility: We are proud and impressed with the behavior of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. They demonstrate maturity and manners appropriate for their developmental age. There may be occasions, however, when a few students do not appropriately conduct themselves. When this occurs on an ongoing basis, we reserve the right to withhold the privilege of participating in field trips and other extra curricular activities.

The JRMS Handbook is an excellent resource for additional information regarding school-wide policies concerning academic and behavioral expectations.

It is with great excitement that we welcome your children to 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Please review these policies with your child and sign below. We look forward to a productive year. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Parent name printed: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Student name printed: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_