

## **English – Grade Eight**

“No one need wait a single moment to start to improve the world.”

- Anne Frank

My aim is to help each and every student strive for a positive self-image while achieving academic excellence, and doing so by displaying a sense of responsibility.

Students are graded on the following basis:

- 1) Tests and quizzes
- 2) Homework
- 3) Class participation

Please encourage your child to have all necessary materials for school with him/her every day. At the start of each class, students should always be prepared with assigned homework and supplies (red pen, black/blue ink pen, paper, notebook and folder). I need your help and support in encouraging organizational skills. Penmanship and overall neatness need to be stressed. If a homework assignment looks unacceptable to you, insist it be redone.

Incomplete homework may be made up for partial credit within allotted time limits. Since it is recommended that Jr. High students spend a minimum of 90 minutes on homework each evening, homework will usually be given nightly.

My program objectives develop the skills acquired in preceding years in each of the language processes: Listening, Multisensory Experiences, Speaking and Writing. Since the ability to write correctly and well is vital in our society, frequent writing experiences, covering various topics and stressing good paragraph development, vocabulary, and sentence structure are given. Students will create products reflecting the different writing purposes (descriptive, expository, narrative, and persuasive) for different audiences. The writing process will include the phases of prewriting, drafting, revising and editing, and publishing. Correct English grammar will be stressed daily by the use of grammar studies as well as incorporating correct grammar in the written word. As the year progresses students should show evidence of applying their writing skills in increasingly sophisticated ways to create and produce compositions that reflect effective grammatical word choices.

Students will be expected to keep well-organized notebooks, which will include class notes, and written assignments.

Vocabulary study improves scores on achievement tests and has been shown to improve learning outcomes in all content areas. Daily spelling exercises with weekly tests will be administered. Weekly assignments will vary based on the unit.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me through the school office.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Karen Cocita

