**A**VALON **M**IDDLE **S**CHOOL 

 *Home of the Royal Knights*

5445 King Arthur’s Way

Milton, FL 32583 Principal, David Sigurnjak

(850) 983-5540 (850) 983-5545 FAX Asst. Principal, Tonya Shepherd

Dear Parents and Guardians,

 It is with great excitement and sincerity that I would like to welcome you and your child to our classroom! As your child’s teacher, my goal is to see improvement each day as they progress in their academic careers. My goal is for parents to observe their child’s progress and maturity each day. Most importantly, my goal is to build confidence in students to pursue, persevere, and accomplish their dreams. Welcome. . . let’s get to work!

 Sincerely,

Michael C. Knowlton

8th Grade Language Arts

8th grade Language Arts

Course Syllabus

*Materials Needed for Class*

Please bring the following items to class **DAILY:**

* Pencil
* Folder to be used only for Language Arts
* Notebook Paper
* A book, novel, or other piece of educational literature for silent reading

*Grading*

**Assessments (50%)**

* Unit tests
* Quizzes
* Independent Reading Requirement

**Classwork/Homework (30%)**

* In class work
* Homework

 **Minor (20%)**

* Bell Ringers
* Participation
* Exit Slips
* If work is received that is not legible it will be given back to the student. A grade of zero will be recorded until the student provides a legible copy.
* Students will receive a zero on the first assignment they are caught cheating or plagiarizing. The second offense results in an automatic dean referral.

*Extra Credit*

* If extra credit is offered, it will be available to every student, it will have an academic base, and it will be directly related to classroom instruction. **Extra assignments will not be offered to only a few students at the end of a grading period to boost a student’s final average.**
* Extra credit opportunities are built into the curriculum. Examples of built in bonus opportunities are 1-point bonus passes for successfully answering daily bell ringers, occasional bonus exam questions. Therefore, additional assignments will not be assigned or accepted for extra credit.
* 1-point bonus passes may not be used on the Semester Exam.

*Late Work*

* **Late work will not be accepted.** There will be plenty of class time allotted to complete assignments, and plenty of notice given for any homework assignments.
* **If you are present the day an assignment is given and absent on the day an assignment is collected, it is due the first day you return to school.**
* All work accumulated during an absence must be collected from the “make up work” bulletin in the classroom, and it is due within 3 days of the student’s return to school. Any make-up work turned in after the third day the student is back at school will not be accepted.

*Absences*

* In the event of an absence, the student has 3 days to complete and turn in any work missed.
* Make up tests must be scheduled within those 3 days.
* Any work the student misses can be found on the “make-up work” bulletin in the classroom.
* It is the STUDENT’S responsibility to check the “make-up work” bulletin for classwork with their name on it the day they return to school.
* The student has only 3 days to complete missed work whether or not it’s picked up on time.

*Classroom Expectations*

1. Students will Be Prepared
2. Students will Listen and Follow Instructions
3. Students will Communicate Positively
* If a student is unable to meet the three critical requirements for success in our classroom:
	+ 1st offense: Warning and correctly demonstrate target behavior in the form of a “re-do”
	+ 2nd offense: Five minute time-out and 2-3 sentence reflection on how to improve behavior.
	+ 3rd offense: Parent Contact and discipline paragraphs
1. Students will turn in all assignments on or before the designated due date in the proper tray labeled with their class period.
	1. Only work turned in on or before the due date will be accepted for full credit.
2. When entering the classroom, students will quietly sit in their assigned desk and begin the bell work presented on the overhead projector.
	1. Students are welcome to gather necessary materials and sharpen pencils one at a time **before** the tardy bell has rang.
3. Students are expected to work until the dismissal bell. **However, students will be dismissed by the teacher.** When exiting the classroom, students will submit their exit slips into the mailbox located at the door.
4. When students work within a group:
	1. Voices should be held at just above a whisper as to be considerate of other classmates.
	2. All group work should prominently display the names of all students for which credit is due in the upper right hand corner of their paper.
5. Students will be given three (3) restroom passes each nine weeks.
	1. When a student wishes to use the restroom, they will fill out one of their passes with their name, date, and time of day and submit it to Mr. Knowlton for approval.
	2. Students should not ask to use the restroom during instructional time.
6. Computer usage will be limited to only necessary components of the lesson. Students should obtain explicit permission to use computers for research or tutorials.
	1. No food or drinks or gum should be consumed while operating the classroom computers.
7. Centers should be maintained by those students who are working in that area. Each student will be held accountable for leaving the center as they found it before use.

General Rules and Expectations

The classroom will function successfully under three unwavering and guiding expectations:

1. Be Prepared
2. Listen and Follow Directions
3. Communicate Positively

Entering the Classroom

1. Enter quietly
2. Turn in assignments/classwork/homework
3. Prepare writing utensils
4. Gather paper and other necessary materials
5. Be in your assigned seat before the tardy bell rings
6. Begin bell-work when the tardy bell sounds

Exiting the Classroom

1. Work at your desk until the bell rings
2. Wait for the teacher to dismiss the class before getting up.
3. Exit quietly after placing your exit-slip in the turn-in tray

*Tardies*

* First offense – warning/reminder
* Second offense -- meeting with teacher to discuss the issue, behavior reflection assignment, and/or a call home
* Third offense – dean referral

*Leaving Class*

* Students may not leave class without being dismissed by the teacher. We will work from bell to bell. There will be no time allotted for “packing up.” Packing up before the bell will result in students being kept after class.
* A student will not be granted permission to leave class for non-urgent business during teacher instruction. Any non-urgent requests to leave class will only be considered during the last 10 minutes of class, if the student’s daily assignments are complete.
* **If a student does not have their planner or it is defaced, they lose the privilege of a hallway pass.**

*Parent Conferences:*

* If needed, please call the school’s guidance office to arrange a parent/teacher conference. I encourage students to attend parent/teacher conferences. This allows students to take responsibility for their work. I will also be glad to communicate by email, phone or student planner.

***Online Grade Portal***

Directions for Parent Grade Viewer

* Go to the following website: <https://www.santarosa.k12.fl.us/>
* Click on the Parents tab that is located across the top of the webpage
* Click on Parent/Student Grade Portal, this is the web address: <https://students.santarosa.k12.fl.us/Account/LogOn>
* The student ID is your child’s 10 – digit number that begins with 57…..
* Pin Number (4-Digit Birthday in MMDD format)
* Click Login to view grades and attendance

***Grading Scale***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A | 90-100 | A student who makes an “A” does the following: | * always participates
* accomplishes all goals
* completes all class work accurately
* always completes independent work accurately
* performs well on all tests and quizzes
* successful with all learning goals
 |
| B | 80-89 | A student who makes a “B” does the following: | * participates most of the time
* accomplishes most goals
* completes most class work accurately
* completes most independent work accurately
* performs well on most tests and quizzes
* successful with most learning goals
 |
| C | 70-79 | A student who makes a “C” does the following: | * participates some of the time
* accomplishes some goals
* completes some class work accurately
* completes some independent work accurately
* performs well on some tests and quizzes
* successful with some goals
 |
| D | 60-69 | A student who makes a “D” does the following: | * participates seldom
* accomplishes few goals
* seldom completes class work accurately
* seldom completes work accurately
* seldom performs well on tests and quizzes
* successful with few learning goals
 |
| F | 50-59 | A student who makes an “F” does the following: | * participates never or very little
* accomplishes very few or no goals
* completes very little or no class work accurately
* completes no or very few independent work accurately
* performs poorly on tests and quizzes
* fails to succeed with almost all learning goals
 |

If you have any questions concerning the information listed above, please feel free to contact me at 983-5540, E-mail: knowltonm@santarosa.k12.fl.us.

Sincerely, Michael C. Knowlton