

August 15, 2008

Parents of Mrs. Maupin's English Students:

This year in my eighth and ninth grade English classes, we will be using regular education curriculum (modified, as needed) called **Elements of Literature**. It covers the standards for the state of Arizona in writing and reading. We will supplement this with the **Step Up to Writing** and the **Write Source** program. We will experience a variety of writing styles including personal narrative, persuasive, expository, functional, poetry, letter writing, and a research project. We will also emphasize The Six Traits of Writing, our district criteria for judging writing skills. We will use the **Holt** spelling program with bi-weekly tests **in eighth grade only**. Literary analysis will be part of our day with emphasis on comprehension and vocabulary taken from our reading selections.

Vocabulary tests will take place approximately every two weeks for **both eighth and ninth grades**. The variety of sources will better prepare each student for taking the **Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards** or AIMS test (eighth grade) or **Terra Nova** (ninth grade) in the Spring. **Daily attendance and participation** are critical for the learning to be optimized for each student. I appreciate your support in this regard.

I sign planners **every Friday**. I collect grades on a daily basis. I do not always have an exact percentage each week due to Thursday or Friday work yet to be graded, but I will inform you weekly about Pass, Fail, or Incomplete. Behavior will also be addressed. I expect each student to **fill out the planner daily** for points. If absent, the student is responsible for copying the planner from a classmate. The student is also responsible for asking me for the make-up work. **Late work** is accepted, but the grade is lowered if one day late. If late a second day, detention is issued. Other reasons for detention are gum chewing or a tardy arrival to class. **Thirty minutes detention** will be issued for these.

Participation points are given daily, five points per day. Points will be deducted for not having materials or working steadily, for example.

My **grading scale** is as follows:

100%-90%= A

89%-80%= B

79%- 70%= C

69%-60%= D

59% and below= F

Any student who falls **below 65%** will be put on a **FANG** contract. This means extra study time will be required with me until that grade is at 70% or higher. As a parent, you will be informed by signing the contract along with me and the student.

Homework is only given if a student chooses not to finish daily work. If homework is not returned completed the next day, a consequence is issued. All students are urged to practice spelling words, vocabulary words, and writing at home. This can only enhance learning. I post times weekly that I am available for tutoring. I encourage your student to take advantage of this help during the year as needed. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me. **Phone- (480) 472-9919 or email- pjmaupin@mpsaz.org**

Mrs. Maupin

Department Chairperson, Special Education

SLD English, Grades 8-9, SLD Math, Grade 9

Reminder . . . **cell phones** are not allowed to be turned on in class or used in the building by students. If it rings in class, it will be taken away and turned into the office.

