

Dear Seventh Grade Parent/Guardian:

The middle school years are filled with transition. The changes you have seen in your child physically, emotionally and socially have been enormous. They have also grown in their ability to use alternative strategies or problem solving techniques. They can now draw on their knowledge and experiences in order to extract meaning from one experience and apply it in the next experience. In other words, they are able to think more critically and incorporate higher-level thinking.

In seventh grade, we focus on increasing the responsibility placed on the individual student. We have established the following policies and procedures to help your child become more academically independent:

Homework:

- Homework must be submitted to the teacher on time. However, two assignments per marking period may be submitted the following day for half credit. Any other late assignment will not receive credit. It is extremely important that all students be prepared each day for class so that they can benefit from the instruction and contribute to class discussion. Homework provides students with a reinforcement of skills and concepts learned; therefore, a student is still responsible for completing their homework even if it is late and will not receive credit.
- A heading should be on ALL homework assignments, even in binders or notebooks. Complete sentences are required on open-ended questions and should restate the question in the answer. Homework should be neat and legible on a clean sheet of paper.

Notebooks:

- Notebooks will contain a uniform heading distinct sections for each subject. The heading will consist of a topic and the date. Notes include everything on the chalkboard and/or overhead projector.

Assessments:

- Students who submit a late alternative assessment (labs, projects, essays, presentations) one day late will receive one letter grade lower and an additional grade lower for each day following. No credit will be given for work submitted beyond the fourth day. Students are required to submit their assessments, even if they receive no credit, to assure that they have learned the desired objectives.
- Extra credit assignments will not be given. However, bonus points opportunities MAY be offered through the year.

Homework assignment pad/notebook quizzes:

- In order to hold your child accountable for homework and notes, homework assignment pad and/or notebook quizzes may be administered sporadically, but consistently by all team teachers. The quizzes will be counted as part of your child's grade in respective subjects. Homework assignments should be kept in an assignment pad, neatly and legibly.

Class preparation:

- Students should bring to class EVERYDAY the following items: notebook, textbook, pen/pencil, and homework. Students will be held accountable to all items missing. Students will not be permitted to return to their lockers after the bell rings. If your child is unprepared for class three times, one point will be deducted on the final average for your child that marking period in that subject.

Please discuss the above items with your child. It is our hope that your child will be successful at Pearl R. Miller School. We believe that this is an important step in assuring that your child will be academically independent. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call us. We appreciate your support in this matter.

Sincerely,
The Seventh Grade Team