

Dear Eighth 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. You have also watched your child grow intellectually. They now persevere when the solution to a problem is not immediately apparent. 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 eighth grade we begin preparing your child for the rigors of high school and the responsibility placed on the individual student. To help your child become more academically independent we have established the following policies and procedures:

Homework

- Homework that is late will receive no 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 reinforcement of skills and concepts learned; therefore a student is still responsible for completing their homework even if is late and has received no credit.

Presentation of Work

- Students must have their first and last name, date, assignment, and period listed on each assignment.
- Students must complete all work in blue or black ink. Pencil may be used solely for mathematics and science.
- Students must write out each word in their assignment. The use of abbreviations will be considered as incomplete answers.
- Students must turn in papers with neat edges. Ragged or torn papers are not acceptable.
- Students must turn in papers without cross outs or excessive use of White-Out.
- Students must write legibly or type assignments.
- Students must type essays in size 12 font with double spacing, in Times New Roman Font.

Academic Independence

- Students will be expected to maintain academic independence. Academically independent students can utilize three strategies regarding homework. Students are expected to copy homework on the board when they are present in class. If absent, students should call a classmate for an assignment or access the homework hotline if a classmate is unavailable.
- All students will also be expected to keep all returned tests and accurately track their assessments or grades on a track sheet.

Assessments

- Students who submit an alternative assessment (labs, projects, essays, presentations) a day late will receive one letter grade lower. An additional day late will result in half credit. (Except in Mrs. Jeczo's English Classes, where no credit will be given). No credit

will be given for work completed beyond the third day. Students are required to submit their assessments even if they receive no credit to assure that they have learned the desired objectives.

- Rewrites for essays in all disciplines will only be allowed for assignments handed in on time.
- The two-test policy will only be in effect for the first marking period. Beginning in the second marking period, students may have more than two assessments. Please be assured that the teachers will carefully monitor the assessments so that all our students have an acceptable number of tests each day.

It is our hope that your child will be successful at Kinnelon High School. We believe that this is an important step in assuring that each child will be ready for the responsibility and demands that high school level courses require.

Sincerely,
The Eighth Grade Team