

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Happy almost summer! I'm excited for your student to join my advanced English class this coming school year. There are many benefits to taking advanced English in the eighth grade, such as being better prepared for advanced high school writing, reading, research, and analysis. However, there are also challenges that come with being in an advanced course. This class is fast-paced and difficult, and it requires commitment to challenging work. Your student must stay on top of their classroom learning (e.g., assignments, quizzes, projects, independent reading, writing, iReady, etc.).

WORK QUALITY

Academic scholar students are expected to turn in their best quality work. Anything less will be given back to the student to redo. This is non-negotiable. To receive a grade on the assignment, the student must redo and resubmit the assignment. I will give the student directions on how they should redo the assignment and when the redo is due to me.

ABSENCES

Some absences are to be expected during the year, and I will work with your student so they can be as successful as possible if they miss class. However, if your student is chronically absent, this class will prove to be extremely difficult because of the accelerated pace of the course. I want each student to be successful in this class, and to do that, they need to be in class. If absences cannot be avoided, your child can access all classroom assignments and materials in Schoology. It is your student's responsibility to make sure all make-up work is turned in within the makeup work timeframe outlined in the TCSS handbook.

CHEATING

Cheating is unacceptable. If a student is caught cheating, then he or she will receive a zero on the assignment, and they will be assigned an academic dishonesty essay, which will be signed by you. Furthermore, the incident will be documented and will result in dismissal from the national junior honors society. PLEASE, discuss and reinforce this with your student. I will work with them to ensure they learn everything they need to know, so there should be no reason for them to feel the need to cheat.

RETAKE POLICY

If your student makes below 80% on an assessment and would like to retake a test, they are welcome to do so unless otherwise specified. Your student must fill out a retake form and have it signed by you. The form asks what your student will do to improve their score (e.g., review their notes with their parents, attend intervention to be retaught material, etc.). To be fair to all students, especially those who scored 80% or above, the highest grade a student can achieve on a retake is 80%. The primary purpose of a retake is to ensure students are proficient in the skills/concepts being assessed. Retakes are not intended to be given regularly due to being unprepared for an assessment; thus, it is vital for students to be prepared for all assessments and not rely on regular retakes.

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit is offered to the WHOLE class at my discretion. It is important that students work hard and perform well on regular assignments, so they do not require or rely on extra credit to pass the class. Do not ask me for extra credit.

SUMMER READING

A summer reading assignment is being sent home with your child at the end of the school year. Your child is required to read the novel *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card. You can purchase a copy of the novel, or you can access a free downloadable PDF on the class info page of my website (<https://treadwellela.weebly.com>). As a warning, there are some minor curse words in the novel as well as some violence among characters as they are preparing for and fighting in a galactic war. The cursing and violence are not a focus in the novel; however, I wanted to give parents a heads-up, so you are not caught off guard. By the time school starts, the novel should be read, and the question packet your student will receive should be completed.

COMMUNICATION

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. I am happy to work with you and your student to be successful during and beyond my class. My email is ehtreadwell@tcss.net.

There was so much information in this letter, and I appreciate you reading all of it. I appreciate your dedication to your child's education, and I'm looking forward to helping them learn new skills and grow academically this coming school year.

Best wishes for a great year,

Erin Treadwell, Ed.S.

Duncanville Middle School

8th Grade English Teacher