

# My philosophy and procedures:

## English

My goal is learning and retention not busy work and scary tests. Grammar does not change. We learn it over and over again... every single year. I will do a short pretest with them before I introduce a lesson with new material in it to see where they are individually with each skill. These are not to be studied for, nor will they be recorded in the gradebook unless students do well on them and no teaching is necessary on these lessons.

I am strong in grammar and writing and will spend the bulk of my class time on these two subject areas. Communication is one of the keys to the world in which we live, and being able to convey our thoughts and feelings and information is priceless. Students will have journals that are stored in my classroom. Journal assignments will not be graded on content- making it a "safe writing zone". They will be graded on use of time, length, and capital letters and end marks. This will evolve throughout the year, but the students will always know exactly what is required of them. Journal topics are designed to make students think. They will be instructed not to share anything that is too private or that they do not feel comfortable sharing. We will also practice many other types of writing besides informal journaling.

Spelling workbook assignments will mostly be completed outside of my class time. I do not do pretests, and I will incorporate vocabulary and writing into most spelling tests. Spelling tests will be on Wednesdays, and the Spelling workbook lessons will be assigned on Wednesdays and due on Mondays. To be transparent with you, spelling is not my favorite subject. Either, you're a good speller or you're not. It's my goal to teach my students to be resourceful and see the importance of good spelling and grammar.

On reading, I will encourage students to always have a library book to read in free time. I do not have any requirements on what they read and how much they read beyond the four books needed for book reports that are required for the year- one each nine week period. I will announce the type of book report required at the beginning of each quarter. I plan to read aloud to them this year, too. Hopefully we will make it through two novels during the school year.

We will explore different genres of literature and have much classroom discussion about the different stories, poems, plays, etc. that we will be reading. Occasionally, I will assign a reading passage for homework.

All work and tests will be weighted equally. Not all work will be recorded for a grade. My goal is to make sure students are learning and retaining information and that it is usable to them. A lot of my teaching style is oral response in a group setting that looks much like a class discussion. I don't assign busy work.

## Homework

I will not regularly assign homework. Most of the homework students have will be what they haven't finished in class.

## Late work

I am hard on late work especially repeat offenders, but I am also compassionate when circumstances beyond our control arise.

- one day -10% (a perfect 100 reduced to a B)
- two days -25% (a perfect 100 reduced to a D)
- three days or more: after two days a zero will be recorded

## Rewards

Mrs. Wherritt's Leave-it-blank stickers: These are small colorful stickers with my initials on them. I will hand them out as gifts or as rewards for being good or working hard. These will be given at my discretion. These stickers can be used by students to put on a test or homework assignment where they would like to leave the question blank, and no points will be deducted from the grade for leaving the question blank. These stickers can only be used in Mrs. Wherritt's classes.