

I believe that it is best when you, your parents, and I are all working together for your success. An open-line of communication is therefore essential for all of us to have a positive relationship. In order to foster this relationship, I have provided the class website, my email address, and fax number. I also welcome students to meet individually with me whenever they like. However, this line of communication must also run between you and your parents. I expect you to keep track of each of your grades and to inform your parents of your progress.

As middle school students, I also expect *you* to communicate with me about problems that you may be having in class. I invite you to come in for help anytime, but I want *you* to ask for help using your own initiative and not mine or your parents. If you are absent, you need to ask me for the assignments – not your parents. If you need help with a topic or have questions, you need to ask me the questions – not your parents. Obviously, if you have made such an effort, and after talking with me you still do not feel that your concerns have been adequately resolved, then you should by all means request that your parent contact me; I will gladly discuss the situation with him or her.

You are the person both your parents and I are trying to help be successful, and you are in the best position to keep communication about your progress flowing to both your parents and to me. Although students sometimes feel intimidated or shy away from meeting with a teacher individually after class, good students learn that meeting periodically with their instructors is beneficial to them and helps make them more successful. Whether there is an assignment you are unclear about, a question about your grade or you just want to continue an interesting dialogue cut short by the bell, establishing an effective working relationship with your teachers can only help you get more out of class.

You may expect a stimulating and challenging course, and to be treated in a respectful manner at all times. Whenever there is anything I can do to help you be more successful in my class, you need to let me know. Also, if you have any special needs, I encourage you to discuss them with me as early in the school year as possible, and I will attempt to help you in every way I can.