*Mrs. Johnson’s Middle School Writer’s Workshop Syllabus*

Writer’s Workshop is designed to encourage students to write with purpose and creativity while directly focusing on improving their writing skills.

This syllabus is an overview of Mrs. Johnson’s classroom and student expectations. This syllabus should be reviewed and signed by both parent and student. Please return the signed page by Friday, August 17, 2018.

**Classroom Expectations:**

* Enter the classroom quietly and ready to learn
* Remember your S.O.A.R. expectations
* Respect yourselves, classmates, instructor, and school property
* Bring your composition notebooks EVERY DAY
* Have a pencil or pen EVERY DAY
* Turn in completed homework and classwork
* Write homework down as and when given
* Study EVERY night
* Be in dress code at all times

**Classwork:**

Classwork should be turned in on the day that it is due. Failure to complete classwork will result in deducted points. Late classwork may be accepted (depending on the assignment and how late the work is) and graded accordingly.

This course will cover persuasive, argumentative, narrative (associated with descriptive writing), expository, and creative writing. Thus resulting in the need and use of five composition notebooks (one for each type of writing).

**Homework:**

Homework may be given on Thursday of each week and is due the following day (Friday). Failure to complete or turn in homework will result in deducted points (depending on the assignment and how late the work is) and will be graded accordingly.

I may not assign a certain homework activity daily. However, you should **STUDY YOUR VOCABULARY WORDS** and **NOTES EVERY DAY.**

*\*\* Classwork and homework needs to be neat and clean. Please do not turn in torn, dirty, or sloppy work as it will not be accepted this way and you will be required to do the assignment(s) over. Points will be deducted for re-doing these assignments and turning them in late.*

**Projects/Presentations:**

 Projects and presentations will be given in advance. The type of project or presentation determines the amount of advanced notice that will be given.

**Resources:**

Kaizena, IXL, class handouts, notes, NLAE website, videos.

**\*Kaizena** is an online tool that allows me to scaffold the writing process and implement a paperless way to have students practice writing, get feedback, and make consistent progress.

**\*IXL** is an immersive K-12 learning experience that provides comprehensive, standards-aligned content for math, language arts, science, and social studies.

**Tests/Quizzes:**

 Test dates will be announced the week before they are given. Quizzes will vary.

**Retake Policy:**

According to NLAE policy, you may request to retest if **ALL** of the following are true:

1. You have attended tutoring for a re-teach of the material, **or** prepared for the retest in another teacher-approved way (test corrections, other assignments).
2. You have demonstrated effort to learn the material in class.
3. The original graded test with a parent signature and student corrections (if requested) are stapled.

**Please** **note**: you may retake each test only one time, and it must be **within 3 weeks** after the original test has been given. You may not retake district or state assessments.

**Late Policy:**

 ***ANY assignment that is turned in late will receive a 1-point deduction with a max of 3 points.***

**Absences/Tardy Policy:**

If a student misses a test or quiz, they must make it up the first day that they return to school. Homework can still be turned in for a grade.

**Grading Scale by Class Weights:**

Classwork- 35%

Homework- 5%

Papers/Projects- 40%

Tests/Quizzes- 20%

**Portal Grades:**

If you see…

* **ABS** = Student was absent during this assignment and it needs to be made up.
* **NTI** = Student was present during this assignment and did not turn it in when it was due.
* **EXC** = Student did not complete assignment, it is excused, and the student does not need to make it up.
* **A number** = The number of points a student received out of the assignment

\*\*If you need to contact me please email me at sjohnson@newlifeacademyga.com and I will respond as soon as I can. My office hours are on Wednesday between 3:40 and 4:25. ***Students and parents can meet with me during my office hours by appointment only.***

***“Change almost never fails because it’s too early. It almost always fails because it’s too late”***

 **-Seth Godin**

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I have read and understand the expectations for this course. By signing below, I am acknowledging that I understand the expectations and have received Mrs. Johnson’s Middle Writer’s Workshop Syllabus.

Student Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name (print): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_