

August 2024

Dear Parent(s) and Student:

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! This letter puts in print rules, expectations, and procedures that have been discussed in class. Because I believe that every student has a right to learn and is capable of learning, the following classroom policies have been established in order to provide a positive and productive learning environment. Consequently, the following policies, in addition to all school rules, have been established for everyone.

The following **classroom policies** should help you to understand my expectations.

Responsible O.W.L.S. will arrive on time with a positive attitude and ready to learn.

Responsible O.W.L.S. will avoid distractions. Take out headphones. Leave phones off and in your backpacks, as per the school's cell phone policy.

Responsible O.W.L.S. will, if distracted by a friend, request a seat change.

Respectful O.W.L.S. will treat everyone with respect by listening and being courteous.

Respectful O.W.L.S. will take care of the property provided by the school and Ms. van Schaik.

Respectful O.W.L.S. will keep the classroom pest free by eating and drinking outside. Water is allowed inside.

Respectful O.W.L.S. will lower a hoodie and remove earbuds.

Safe O.W.L.S. will not throw things at others.

Safe O.W.L.S. will remain seated, except during "intermission" or transitional breaks.

Safe O.W.L.S. will always ask permission to leave the class and will sign in and out.

Class policies are in addition to the school rules found in the student/parent handbook. School rules were reviewed in an assembly in August and discussed in class. Continued disruptions or defiance is dealt with by issuing an incident log, then detentions, and, finally, referrals to the administrative team. Ongoing problems will be dealt with according to school and district policy.

Expectations for this course are in keeping the Common Core State Standards, which can be found under the Curriculum and Instruction heading at www.chino.k12.ca.us. The following information details some of the texts and assignments for grade 8 students:

Grammar lessons/Rules of Punctuation

Style Lessons: tone, diction, detail

Academic and content-specific vocabulary

Close Reads

Core Literary Text: *California Collections* (HMH online)

various short stories, poems, informational selections, and board-approved novels.

Essays and Creative writing

Jane Schaeffer Writing Unit (review)

Practice writing various styles of essay, and short stories.

SSR (silent sustained reading) novel of your choice which will need to be approved.

250+ pages of material per trimester, appropriate for your reading level.



Ms. van Schaik's GRADING POLICIES*

I do not give grades; students earn them. As a student in my class, you are the one in complete control of your grade. Your grade will reflect what you have put into my class. Although English is a subjective field, I try to balance this by using a weighted point system- writing, tests and projects, and vocabulary work = 75%; Silent Sustained Reading (SSR) = 10%; handouts, smaller assignments and class participation = 15%. Student's grades are based on the following percentages: 100% = A+, 93-99% = A, 90-92% = A-; 88-89% = B+, 83-87% = B, 80-82% = B-, 78-79% = C+, 73-77% = C, 70-72% = C-, 68-69% = D+, 63-67% = D, 60-62% = D-, 0-59% = F. **Not all assignments are scored through the google classroom. Please, check Aeries for the most accurate and up-to-date grade.**

To avoid misunderstandings, students are required to keep all graded papers until the end of each grading period. If mistakes are made in the grading or scoring of assignments or tests, it is the student's responsibility to bring this to the attention of the teacher as soon as possible. Any teacher error must be shown to the teacher. No change will be made unless the student has the actual assignment or test. I do not anticipate making errors, but teachers are humans, too.

Assignments, tests, or quizzes missed due to legally excused absences may be made up without the loss of points. However, students will only have one day for each day missed in which to make up missed work for full credit. **Late work** may be turned in within one week of the due date but will receive no more than a 75% score. Long term assignments with prearranged deadlines or "**drop-dead due dates**" (i.e., research papers and major projects) must be turned in **on or before the due date**. If the student is legally absent from class when such an assignment is due, it is his/her responsibility to get the assignment turned in that day during the class period in which the student is enrolled. After the due date, the assignment will not be accepted, except in the case of medical emergencies (i.e., hospitalization) and bereavement. Tests and timed writes missed due to an absence will be given in class when the student returns unless prior arrangements have been made. All work missed while students are on school-sanctioned activities is due on the scheduled due date. It is the student's responsibility to see that the teacher receives the completed work and gets any homework/class assignments that may have been given. Assignments, tests, or quizzes missed due to an unexcused absence and small quizzes missed because of tardies may not be made up. Please, bear in mind that the school requires students to clear absences within two days of the absence. Plan ahead and be responsible.

Although I try to teach so everyone understands the assignment and what's going on, there may be times when you don't understand. Please ask questions. You have a right to a quality education, and I am here to help you. If your questions cannot be satisfactorily answered in class, please make an appointment to see me after school or at lunch.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to send me an email at Kathleen_vanSchaik@chino.k12.ca.us or reach out through the google classroom. I look forward to working with each of you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kathleen van Schaik', followed by a small flourish.

Kathleen van Schaik

Please return the signed form.....

Student Name
(print) _____ Date _____

Student
Signature _____ Period _____

Parent/Guardian
Signature _____