

Mr. Jim Ford
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Reading, Grade 6
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INTRODUCTION, POLICIES, AND EXPECTATIONS FOR 2009-2010

Welcome back to a new school year! I am pleased to be returning to Mount View this year, and I am excited about working with your child and you. This year I will be teaching both Developmental and Challenge Reading. This will be my eighteenth year in Howard County schools and my eighth year at Mount View. I'm looking forward to a year of good reading and academic success in 6th grade.

As this year begins, please take a moment to review the information on these pages. It will provide you with an overview of what will be expected of students in class and at home during the school year.

Units

Units of instruction will be posted on my web page. Please refer to that page periodically for updates. Our Traditional Reading curriculum has been revised this year. All classes will also have new quarterly local assessments as part of our updated Reading program. These will be included as assessment grades.

Materials

Students are expected to come to class with all the necessary materials. These include:

- 3-ring binder with a section for Reading
- loose-leaf paper
- #2 pencils *and* a blue or black pen (most class work is to be done in pencil)
- highlighter
- Post-It notes (kept in locker; not needed daily)
- A self-selected developmentally appropriate novel for independent reading

A NOTE: Please leave permanent markers at home. Although these can be useful for projects, they will not be needed in class. Other art supplies can be kept in lockers and used as directed when needed.

Classroom Conduct and Responsibilities

My expectations for how students act in the classroom are based on the expectations outlined in both the Mount View Student Achievement Manual and the Agenda Book. If you follow the "3 Rs" from the SAM packet, you'll be in great shape. The key things to remember are:

- Come to class on time, be prepared to participate, and do your best work.
- Be respectful of others *and* yourself:
 - o Follow directions when given, without frequent reminders
 - o Use appropriate language
 - o Listen while others are speaking
 - o Be mindful of the property of others
 - *This includes proper care for the classroom's library, texts, and other resource.*
- Use your Agenda Book to record all assignments.
- Be accountable for your own work, grades, organization, and behavior.

Grading

Both mid-term and quarterly grades will be based on homework, class work, tests, and projects related to the various units of study. Homework will count for 10% of your grade. The other 90% will be distributed as follows:

Class work	50 %
Assessments	20 %
Projects	20 %

Homework

Homework is worth 10% of your grade, and this 10% can make a big difference. At times, your homework will be connected directly to an in-class assignment given at a later date. Reading calendars will be graded for completion. Other assignments such as vocabulary or novel reviews will be graded for accuracy. Failure to complete homework may affect your performance and participation in the classroom, and will certainly affect your grade.

Missed Work and Absences

Remember to refer regularly to the class web page for assignment information. It is the student's responsibility to make up any assignment that is missed. If you (the student) are out for an illness or another excused reason, assignments that were due when you were out should be turned upon return to class ***if you were in school when the assignment was given. You are permitted one additional day for each day of absence.*** If you have an excused absence for the day that an assignment was given, a reasonable due date will be assigned when you return to school. An unexcused late assignment will be accepted, but the grade for that assignment will be lowered – typically one grade for each day that the assignment is late.

Please read, sign, and return only the bottom portion of this letter. Keep the information at home for your records. (A parent signature turned in on time is worth 10 points for a homework grade.)

I have read the information on these pages, and I understand what is expected of me in Mr. Ford's class.

Student signature _____ Date _____

I have read the information on these pages, and I understand what is expected of my child in Mr. Ford's class.

Parent signature _____ Date _____

Parent name printed _____

To the parents: At times, it may be necessary to reach you quickly. Although emergency information is on file in the office, it is not always possible for me to get there swiftly while I am with students. If it wouldn't be too much trouble, please list below the best way to reach you during the school day (home phone number, email, cell phone, etc.) so that I might have that information on file in the classroom. Thank you!
