

August 12, 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The school year has begun, and we are prepared to provide your child with the skills and knowledge to be successful this year and in the future educational endeavors. We will challenge and push your child to his/her limits as students and help make the most of his/her final year at Terramar. Even though your child is in eighth grade, it is still imperative that you remain an active participant in your child's education by discussing what your child has learned, checking Power Schools, and contacting us if you have any questions or concerns.

We would like to address some policies that are in place for the eighth grade students for a successful and safe learning environment. Students have been made aware of these policies in all of their classes. Please review these policies with your child, then sign and return the attached Notification Form and retain this packet for future reference. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our policies, please do not hesitate to contact us. We may be contacted via email, telephone, and note. We usually respond within 24-48 hours from your initial contact. However, if it is necessary to have a team meeting regarding your concerns or questions, we may need to a few more days. Thank you in advance for your support in your child's education.

Sincerely,

The Eighth Grade Team

Mrs. Mara Kurasch
Language Arts
<http://mrskurasch.weebly.com/>
623-445-7675

Mr. Rex McElhane
Science
<http://mrmcelhaneyscience.weebly.com/>
623-445-7671

Mr. Rich Keene
Social Studies
<https://sites.google.com/site/keeneonsocialstudies/>
623-445-7674

Mrs. Debbie Tang
Math
<http://dvusd.schoolwires.net/Page/2752>
623-445-7673

General School Information

Hours: 8:15-3:00

Attendance: Regular attendance and being on time are two things that help children have a good attitude toward school and facilitate their individual success.

Tardies: If your child is late, he/she misses valuable instruction time. Students are expected to be in class on time. When a student has been late three times, an after school detention will be issued.

Behavior Expectations

We hold the following expectations for 8th grade students:

- Be respectful
- Be responsible
- Be safe
- Be a learner

Classroom behavior will not prevent learning or teaching.

8th grade discipline plan

It is imperative that learning is the emphasis while in the classroom. Disruptions to the learning process will result in consequences.

First offense - verbal warning

Second offense— teacher signs Titan Pride Card with code from the matrix and teacher initials

Third offense – teacher signs the card again with a code and initial, student completes reflection sheet and parent contact

Fourth offense – after school detention and parent contact

If the behavior continues, an office referral will be issued. Consequences will be determined by school administration.

Steps may be skipped depending upon the infraction. The eighth grade discipline plan is aligned with the Terramar schoolwide discipline plan that is being implemented this year.

Detention: Detention will be issued for violating the school, grade level and classroom rules.

After school detentions are held on Tuesday and Thursday from 3:10-4:10. **The school does not provide transportation home from after school detention.**

Cell Phone Policy: Cell phones are to be turned off and in the student's backpack. Failure to abide by this rule will result in disciplinary action. Anytime a cell phone is visible on campus, it will be confiscated and brought to the office.

First offense - student can pick up the phone in the office after school

Second offense and after - parents must pick up cell phone. Additional consequences may be issued as determined by school administration.

The office retains records of cell phone confiscation; therefore, it is necessary that all cell phones are off and in backpacks at all times.

Bathroom Policy: If the restroom is needed, students must ask permission from their teacher. Students will be issued bathroom passes per quarter. Passes will be surrendered upon return from the restroom. Unused passes will carry over to the next quarter. All students must sign out the classroom using the bathroom log.

Gum: Gum is not permitted anytime on campus. Violating this school rule will result in consequences following our grade level discipline plan.

Grading

Academic averages determine a student's report card grades. These grades are affected by daily assignments, homework, tests and quiz scores, class projects, and participation.

A	100%-90%
B	89%-80%
C	79%-70%
D	69%-60%
F	59% or below

Grading Practices: Each teacher utilizes his/her own grading practices. Please review each teacher's Course Overview for details on the practices employed within that class.

Report Cards: Report cards are issued at the end of each quarter. All report cards must be signed and returned to the homeroom teacher within three school days. Please utilize Powerschools to stay informed about your child's academic performance throughout the quarter. Contact the office if you need a Powerschool username and password.

Principal's List: Students receiving all A's in all subjects.

Honor Roll: Students receiving A's and B's in all subjects.

Absent Work: If a student is absent, it is his/her responsibility to find out what was missed in class. Students are responsible for missed work while keeping up with current assignments. When a student is absent, he/she has the number of days absent plus one additional day to complete missed work. **It is the child's responsibility to turn in missed assignments; we will not ask for missed work.**

Homework: All homework assignments are due on the designated due date. Please reference each teacher's Course Overview to see specific homework policies.

Missing Work: Please see individual teacher's policies.

Correcting/Retaking Quizzes/Tests: Please see individual teacher's policies.

Long Term Assignments: No long-term assignments will be accepted late. Students are given ample time to complete the requirements. Students must manage their time wisely so that assignments are completed by their designated due date. All due dates will be communicated to ensure that assignments are completed on time.

Communication

The items listed below will be instruments to aid in regular communication between us. Notes, e-mail, and/or telephone calls may be used at any time.

Agenda: Your child will be provided an agenda for the school year. It is your child's responsibility to record important information, such as daily assignments, homework, tests, reports, etc.

Organizers: Your child will need to utilize some type of organizer for his/her assignments and homework. We encourage the use of a 3 ring binder or an accordion file folder.

Power School: It is extremely important to log onto the Powerschool website weekly. Through the Powerschool website, you can receive weekly notifications via email regarding your child's grades. Contact the office if you need a Powerschool username and password.

Web address: <https://ps.dvUSD.org/public/>

Teacher Information:

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Language Arts

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We have read and understand the policies of the eighth grade.

Parent Signature

Date

Student Signature

Date

Return this form to your child's homeroom teacher by
Monday, August 19, 2013

