

January 11, 2011

Dear Seventh and Eighth Grade Parents,

In December, the four junior high homeroom teachers and Mrs. Keaton discussed a late assignment policy. This conversation was precipitated by the deluge of late assignments each of us received at the end of the first trimester. Some assignments were up to a month late. As a result, we graded a plethora of papers quickly while trying to do final grades and report cards. In addition, without the context of the papers that were turned in on time, the late assignments were assessed in a piecemeal fashion.

One of us remarked at the time: "Due dates seem to be treated as suggestions by too many students." In the real world, deadlines are deadlines. We have tried to impress upon the students that bosses do not often respond well to the promise of employees getting a task completed "sometime." So, for the good of us all, we have devised a late assignment policy that will prepare students for the real world, which could be here within a year for those who have high school teachers who accept no late work.

We started to implement the new policy at the beginning of the second trimester after announcing it to all students. It was decided to distinguish between the seventh and eighth graders, since the latter are closer to high school.

Seventh Grade: For each day late up to ten days, five points will be deducted from the earned grade. After that, no credit will be given.

Eighth Grade: For each day late up to five days, ten points will be deducted from the earned grade. After that, no credit will be given.

This policy applies to daily assignments. Students are still expected to complete essays, projects, and other long-term assignments. However, when such an assignment is turned in beyond the end of the late period, it will earn no credit.

If your child is one who has a tendency toward turning in late assignments, you may want to discuss the consequences of such behavior. Thank you for your support.

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