I. Course Standards/Objectives
This course is designed to follow the Common Core Standards for English Language Arts. As this is a Special Education class, the main objective is to have each student master his/her Goals for Language Arts as outlined in their IEP while working towards mastery of the Common Core Standards. We will work within the 8th Grade Reading & Writing Standards using the core curriculum. In meeting these standards we will be using literary criticism, analysis and evaluation, research, as well as the revision of written work in the writing process.

II. Textbooks/Materials to Be Used
This class will utilize the core curriculum and novels. Materials will be accommodated per IEPs. Each student is required to bring a Valley View Agenda Book, a binder with 3 ring paper, pencils, and blue or black pens to class daily. The literature book may be kept at home for homework or makeup work. There are textbooks in class for student use. Each student will be issued a supplemental workbook that goes with the text. Students must also bring a silent reading book to class each day. This book must be from the Accelerated Reader list and at the student's reading level.

III. Classroom Rules and Policies
Valley View students are expected to demonstrate positive and respectful behavior in class and on our campus. We expect all students to adhere to the guidelines as outlined in our Agenda Book and on our website. The standards for Citizenship grades are outlined in both documents.

In this classroom the rules are very simple:

Have all materials and be ready to learn.
Respect the room and the people in it.
Follow directions the first time. Do your best!
Use your voice and words wisely.
Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak.

Student's positive behavior will be rewarded both in tangible rewards and on their report card. Failure to follow these few, simple rules will result in verbal warnings, opportunity time, parent notification or office referrals.

IV. Student Responsibilities
Students are responsible for being in their seats with all necessary materials when the bell rings. Students are responsible for writing down homework assignments daily and turning in completed homework on time, 20 to 30 minutes should be spent on English homework each evening. Homework will not be given on Fridays or holidays. The majority of written work will be completed in class.
Students are expected to read at least two (2) Accelerated Reader books per quarter and to pass the quiz for each book. The use of the Accelerated Reader program has been shown to increase student reading ability as well as enrich the students’ vocabulary.

Additionally, students will write one book report each quarter, and may use one of the Accelerated Reader books for the report. A rubric will be provided for the book report.

V. **Grading Policy**
The student’s degree of mastery of the Common Core State Standards (in accordance with IEP goals) is the critical element in determining the letter grade in this class. Your student will demonstrate mastery in this class by assignment completion, written assessments, portfolio assignments, reading logs, oral participation etc. Late work will be given only partial credit. I do not give extra credit work in place of required assignments. If a student is absent it is the student’s responsibility to request missing work and will receive full credit if completed within a week of absence.

This class uses AERIES to communicate with parents and students. Grades are regularly updated and posted online for the convenience of parents and students. The activation instructions for your AERIES account will be provided by your child’s homeroom teacher within the first few weeks of school.

VI. **Tardy and Absence Policy**
- **School Tardy Policy:** Tardies are unacceptable. Those students who are responsible and respectful earn good citizenship grades. Four (4) tardies to class will affect the citizenship grade for the quarter “N” (Needs to Improve). Six (6) tardies to class will result in a “U” (unsatisfactory grade) in citizenship. Please remember that consistent, on-time attendance is imperative to learning.

This is a resource class. If at any time you have any questions about the class or your student’s IEP, please feel free to call or e-mail me, or your student’s case manager. I look forward to teaching your child as well as working with you towards his/her success this year.

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