ACADEMIC GATORAID

One of the goals of Griffin Middle School is to teach students to take responsibility for their own academic work. Tutoring is available to all students from 8:10-8:40 AM every morning and from 3:55-4:25 PM every afternoon. If a student does not understand an assignment or concept, it is his or her responsibility to attend a tutoring session prior to the due date of the assignment.

Grades for assignments, quizzes, major projects/tests are weighted in the 6-week grade calculation in three categories.

Tests and Major Projects 50%
Quizzes and Minor Grades 30%
Class Work and Assignments 20%

- Students are always assigned an Academic Gatoraid by their teacher for late, major projects that are weighted in the 50% category for the 6-week grade.

- Grade 8 students will be assigned 1 Teacher-assigned Academic Gatoraid First Semester.

- Late assignments will receive the grade they earn, without deduction of points.

- However, teachers may not be able to grade assignments that are not turned before the Friday preceding the end of the 6-week grading period.

- The teacher will determine if the student will receive an incomplete on their report card as a result of the missing assignment or if the assignment is not necessary for the teacher to assess the student’s mastery of the content for the report card grade. If the teacher determines the assignment is not necessary to determine mastery of the content, then the missing assignment will not be averaged in the student’s report card grade.

8th Grade Policies and Procedures

Mr. Hart                  - Math                  469-633-4983  (hartT@friscoisd.org)
Mr. Beran                 - Math                  469-633-4984  (beranCH@friscoisd.org)
Ms. Hillstrom             - Language Arts        469-633-4981  (hillstrG@friscoisd.org)
Mrs. Hart                 - Language Arts        469-633-4985  (hartN@friscoisd.org)
Mrs. Carter               - Language Arts        469-633-4986  (carterK@friscoisd.org)
Mr. Vawter                - Language Arts        469-633-4922  (vawterJ@friscoisd.org)
Ms. Donovan               - Science                469-633-4988  (donovanE@friscoisd.org)
Mrs. Robinson             - Science                469-633-4989  (robinsonT@friscoisd.org)
Mr. Kindred               - Social Studies         469-633-4987  (kindredA@friscoisd.org)
Mr. Morrow                - Social Studies         469-633-4957  (morrowS@friscoisd.org)
Mrs. Williamson-Nothnagel - Social Studies         469-633-4980  (williaRa@friscoisd.org)

Griffin Middle School
Please save this information for future reference!

Sign, detach, and return this bottom portion tomorrow.

I agree to abide by the guidelines set forth in this syllabus.

Printed students name: _______________________________________

Student signature: ___________________________________________

Parent signature: ___________________________________________


**General Course Description**
Topics of study for 8th Grade Math include: Problem Solving; Numbers, Operations and Quantitative Reasoning; Proportionality; Patterns, Relationships, and Algebraic Thinking; Geometry and Measurement; Probability and Statistics; as well as Algebra. Concepts will be learned through cooperative grouping, lecture, and a variety of hands-on activities.

**Assignments**
1. **Warm Up Activity:**
   Each day you come to class, you will be given a warm up activity. These warm up activities are checked every week for a grade. Warm Ups will be recorded in your Math Interactive Notebook.
2. **Projects:**
   Projects will be assigned periodically. Some work will be done in class, and some will be completed at home.
3. **Math Interactive Notebook:**
   All notes, daily work, vocabulary, and other assignments will be contained in the Math Interactive Notebook. Math teachers will walk you through the process in their class. This is a great tool to use for the evaluation of learning and student progress throughout the year. This notebook will be a spiral which will be added to everyday. It is **EXTREMELY** important that the Math IN is brought to class daily. Spirals will need to be replaced as they become full.

**Supplies:**
- Spiral notebook
- Loose leaf paper
- All work must be completed in pencil
- Red pens for grading
- Some additional supplies for projects may be required as the year progresses

**Homework:**
- Use pencil
- Show all work
- Due next school day
- Quizzes are based on homework

**Textbooks:**
- Textbooks are on-line with help options and tutorials
- Hard copy available

**Teacher Blogs:**
- Updated weekly
- Students and parents are encouraged monitor blog in order to keep up with assignments
- Beran (Algebra) https://wiki.friscoisd.org/users/beranch
8th Grade ELA Course Syllabus
Ms. Hillstrom, Mrs. Carter, Mrs. Hart, Mr. Vawter

General Course Description
Students will be proficient in both reading and writing, using various literary and expository texts, responding to those texts in different modes of writing. The curriculum will include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Short Stories
- Novels
- Poetry
- Drama
- Non-fiction/Expository Texts
- Persuasive/Narrative/Expository/Analytical Writing (using Six Traits)
- Literary Devices
- Grammar
- Vocabulary

Daily Expectations

Silent Sustained Reading
Students will practice silent sustained reading at the beginning of class each day. It is the student’s responsibility to bring a book that is grade appropriate and approved by the parent/guardian. It is expected that the student will bring his/her chosen novel to class every day. Students will be able to check out a book from the library.

Reading Log
Each student will complete a guided reading log every day based on the TEKS and his/her novel.

ILA Binder
Each student is required to compile and maintain his/her ILA sections in their binder. The sections will contain all of the student’s work-in-progress, class notes, and any instructional/modeled handouts to which the student will refer throughout the year. Students are requested to bring divider tabs to organize their work.

Composition Notebook
Each student will keep a composition notebook, in which he/she will make reading responses and journal entries.

Spiral
Each student will bring a spiral to class every day to record vocabulary and Daily Oral Language skills.
Welcome to 8th grade U.S. History! This course is a study of the United States through 1877. The course focuses on colonization, the American Revolution, the formation and structure of U.S. government, the New Republic, Manifest Destiny and an expanding nation, the Civil War, and Reconstruction.

* Colonization *Forging a New Government *An Expanding Nation
* American Revolution *New Republic *Civil War & Reconstruction

You will take part in many traditional learning experiences, such as note taking, using textbooks, tests and quizzes. You will also participate in many non-traditional, hands-on experiences, in which you will create various products as a way of showcasing your learning. I look forward to an exciting year as we learn about the history of our great nation!

**Supplies Requested for U.S. History**

- 3-subject spiral notebook (preferably a Mead 5 Star college ruled) YOU WILL NEED THIS NO LATER THAN THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF SCHOOL!
- Glue sticks (will need to be replenished throughout the year)
- 1 pkg. map (colored) pencils
- Blue and/or black ink pens, pencils, red pen
- Scissors
- Notebook paper

Students are expected to have the above supplies daily. Some of the above supplies will be used in other classes, so there is no need to purchase duplicates unless another teacher is requesting that supply to stay in their classroom.

**Interactive Notebooks**

You will be keeping an Interactive Notebook in U.S. History throughout the school year. All notes and many assignments will be completed in this notebook. You will use a 3 subject spiral notebook for this purpose. We will use this notebook each class day for one reason or another, therefore students will be responsible for bringing their interactive notebook to class daily. **If notebooks are lost they will need to be replaced, along with all notes and assignments for that current semester. Semester exams will cover the whole semester; therefore it is essential to take great care of your interactive notebook. We will be taking a test grade over the notes and assignments that are in your Interactive Notebook at the end of each unit (at least once per six weeks), so organization and neatness are a must.**

**Grading Policy**

The grading policy is as follows: Major Grades 50%, Minor 30% and Daily 20%

- Major Grades: formal tests, mini-tests, major projects, Practice TAKS & interactive notebook unit grade
- Minor Grades: interactive notebook assignments, minor projects
- Daily Grades: warm-up checks, class participation, outside reading or periodic book checks, mini-quizzes
General Course Description
Students will study and learn various scientific areas of study using field/laboratory investigations, scientific methods, technology tools, and research data. Materials will be learned through lectures, readings, and hands-on experiences. Topics to be covered include, but are not limited to the following:
- Investigation/Safety
- Metrics, Graphs, Tools, Scientific Method
- Chemistry
- Physics including Light and Sound
- Universe
- Plate Tectonics
- Cycles
- Weather
- Genetics and Adaptations
- Taxonomy and Speciation

Assignments
1. Warm Up Activity:
   Each day you come to class, you will be given a warm up activity. The warm up activity will usually be an introduction for the day’s lesson or a review from the previous day’s assignment. These warm up activities are checked every other week for a grade. You will also be required to record the weekly assignments in your planner which helps to ensure that you have turned in, or are keeping up with assigned work.

2. Projects:
   Projects and papers will be assigned each semester for all students as part of an effort to incorporate writing into the curriculum. Other projects will also be assigned periodically. Some work will be done in class, and some will be completed at home.

3. Lab Journal:
   All notes, labs, daily work, journal entries, and observation writings will be placed in the LJ as it is completed. Each Science teacher will instruct you specifically as to how this will be done in their class. This is a great tool to use for evaluation of learning and progress throughout the year.

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR SCIENCE:
- Pencils
- A colored pen
- Composition notebook (first semester notebook is provided)
- Graph Paper