



Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to the 2016/2017 school year! I will be your child's eighth grade English Language Arts teacher, and I am delighted to have your child in my class. I am looking forward to getting to know all my students, learning, and growing with them as we start the adventure of eighth grade together. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Education with an emphasis in Language Arts, Bilingual, and TESOL education. I am a native New Mexican and a graduate of Espanola Valley High School, and I attended New Mexico State University where I completed my degree. This will be my 25th year teaching, and every year is unique. I am looking forward to a successful year, and I know you are too. I have high expectations for your child and will do all that I can to help him/her achieve those expectations.

Eighth grade is a very unique grade. Students complete their middle school years and prepare for high school. Students are responsible for keeping track of assignments, projects, and homework for seven classes and will need to adjust to six different teachers and classrooms. It is vital that organization be at the core in all they do.

You can help your student to learn to organize. I will be expecting assignments to be completed in a **timely** manner. In addition, each student is required to read independently a minimum of 20 minutes daily from a book either checked out from our library, public library or one that has been purchased. It is my policy that any assignment not finished in class be taken home for completion. Student grades will be based on a points system. I assign certain point values to each assignment that is graded. For example: worksheets are worth 10 points, quizzes are worth 50 points and projects are worth 100 points. After I record the points in Power School, they are automatically translated into a percentage grade. Of course, assignments will range in value depending on the content. It is school policy to have two grades per week recorded in Power School, but I tend to have more than two per week on average. I keep Power

School up to date as diligently as possible. Grades for the week should all be recorded by Friday, or Sunday at the latest.

Students will be required to keep a binder in the classroom. The binder promotes organization and increases learning. I ask that students bring three composition (college ruled) notebooks, one 1" binder, loose leaf paper, and dividers. Students will also need a supply pouch, pencils, blue or black pens, color pencils, scissors, highlighters, and USB drive.

It is important that your child use a calendar to keep track of assignments, homework, and deadlines. It would be helpful to check your child's calendar often and check in with them about homework, classwork, and projects during the week.

I will send home a weekly newsletter with information about class activities, upcoming projects, tests, and school activities. I will send this via email, so it is important that I have an email address for all parents.

It is **imperative** that you and I keep the lines of communication open. I strongly believe that if a student has support both at home and at school, he/she will be successful. I am available to talk after school from 3:15-3:30. However, I feel email is another option. I check my email constantly throughout the day, and I will get back to you quickly. My email address is: jbl@pvs.k12.nm.us.

Again, I am looking forward to an extremely successful year, and I look forward to working with your child.

Sincerely,

Jennifer B. Lopez