

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent/Student Letter

September 2010

Dear Parent/Guardians and Students,

This letter is to inform you of the expectations of the Eighth Grade Team for the 2010-2011 school year. In order to provide a consistent education for your child, these guidelines pertain to all eighth grade classes (Language Arts, History, Math, Science, PE, and Elective). Please refer to individual course syllabi for additional information and expectations.

Lewis provides all materials needed for all students. Parents wishing to purchase their own materials are provided with this following list:

**Daily Materials Suggested:**

- |  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| *2 pencils with good erasers                 | *2 dark blue or black ballpoint pens |
| *3-ring binder with lined paper and dividers | * Lewis student planner              |
| *Independent reading book                    | *4-function calculator               |
| *8-pack of colored pencils                   | *Spanish dictionary (if elective)    |

**Classroom rules:**

1. Be on time, be prepared
2. Follow all directions
3. Be respectful
4. Complete all work on time
5. No gum, food or drink (bottled water only)
6. Appropriate and accountable talk
7. Daily use of planner

**Grading scale:**

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| A | 100-90%   |
| B | 89-80%    |
| C | 79-70%    |
| D | 69-60%    |
| F | Below 60% |

*One or more “F’s” in academics or one or more “U’s” in citizenship within the last few weeks of school (exact date to be determined) will eliminate a student from end-of-year activities and the promotion ceremony. Additionally, to participate, students must have no suspensions in the last six-week grading period and no more than three suspensions for the entire year.*

**Guidelines for completion of work:**

\* Students and parents will have various means for keeping track of grades through our school’s webpage (www.lewis.edu), Zangle, Parent Connect, classroom postings, and conferencing before or after school. Teachers will facilitate students taking personal responsibility for tracking and maintaining their progress. Also, parents are encouraged to utilize the school’s resources, including the student planner in tracking their child’s progress.

\* No extra credit will be assigned in any of the team classes. We want students to concentrate on the course work designed to increase skills and knowledge.

\*Daily class activities, assignments and homework will not be accepted late. Students have two days to complete missed work for one excused absence such as illness, an appointment, or any pre-arranged absence.

\* Missed exams and quizzes due to *excused* absences are the responsibility of the student to complete in a timely manner. No make ups will be carried over into the next six week period.

\* Out of class assistance can be obtained by students with any of the teachers, based on teacher availability.

\* Student planners may be checked within each six-week grading period in each subject area for a grade.

**Citizenship**

\*Gum is a serious distraction to the learning environment and is not tolerated anywhere on campus. For each time your child is caught chewing gum during a six-week grading period, they will drop one letter grade in citizenship.

\*Tardiness seriously interferes with the education of the late student, as well as the entire class. We want your child to do well. For each tardy during a six-week grading period your child will drop one letter grade in citizenship. Students are to be in their seats ready to work when the bell rings.

\*It is the responsibility of the student to know and understand the citizenship expectations of each class.

**Homework Schedule:**

Science: 2-4 nights a week as needed  
Math: Homework assigned every night  
History: 2-4 nights a week as needed  
English: Homework assigned every night  
Spanish: 4 nights a week

**All daily homework assignments, for each course, should be written by student in the student planner.**

**Preparing Students for High School:**

One of the ways your child can be fully prepared to enter high school next fall, is learning how to adapt to different teachers. While the eighth grade teachers have common expectations to create a consistent education for your child, there will also be a unique experience in each classroom based on the needs of the students. We feel it is not only important to have common expectations, but also for your child to have a different experience in each classroom. It is their responsibility to fully understand each teacher’s individual expectations and guidelines in addition to our eighth grade policies.

**Communication:**

We welcome any questions or concerns you may have. Please refer to the individual course syllabi or visit our webpage at [www.lewis.edu](http://www.lewis.edu) for contact information. We look forward to meeting you at our Back to School Night on September 29th. If you would like to meet or talk with us individually, we welcome the opportunity!

Sincerely,

Eighth Grade Team

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian’s Signature

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Citizenship Rubric

## Excellent

- ❑ **Contributes constructively to class discussion.** (i.e. creates conversation that is on topic or relevant to topic of study.) [This shows student willingness to work hard in class.]
- ❑ **Shows initiative to cooperate with classmates on class topic.** (Student needs little to no reminders to stay on task and on topic.)
- ❑ **Follows directions the first time given.**
- ❑ **Addresses self and others with respect.** (Set expectations as to how students should interact while in class.) [Student shows respect.]
- ❑ **Actively listens and considers ideas different from self.** (This includes teachers, peers, and any other adult that is present in the classroom.) [Student shows how to be safe while listening to others.]
- ❑ **Patiently waits turn to speak or to participate.** (Follows rule of raising their hand and their turn to speak or to be acknowledged.)
- ❑ **Shows perseverance and ambition to learn.** (Perseverance means to show a steady and continued action or belief, usually over a long period of time and especially despite problems or difficulties. Meanwhile, ambition means to have a strong feeling of wanting to be successful in school and achieve great things.)
- ❑ **Student is in his/her assigned seat and ready to learn before the bell rings.**

## Good

- ❑ **Contributes to class discussion in matching others constructive initiative.**
- ❑ **Cooperates with classmates when prompted to do so.**
- ❑ **Follows directions after several reminders.**
- ❑ **Continually checks their own behavior.** (Acknowledges mistakes or rule breaking.)
- ❑ **Listens but rarely interrupts while others share.**
- ❑ **Student is quick to consider ideas without truly considering other's point of view.**
- ❑ **Acknowledges others before speaking for self.** (Gives up their turn if they interrupted.)
- ❑ **Keeps self on task without distracting others.**
- ❑ **Arrives on time and is seated on his/her assigned seat.**

## Satisfactory

- ❑ **Rarely contributes to class discussion.**
- ❑ **Shows indecision for working in teams.**
- ❑ **Easily distracted but returns to task after several times.**
- ❑ **Student is playful but corrects behavior without getting disorderly.**
- ❑ **Interrupts others but shows own ideas without considering others.**
- ❑ **Begins to speak without raising hand or waiting their turn.**
- ❑ **Often found not on task and asked several times to return to task.**
- ❑ **Student arrived late twice to class without a pass throughout the grading period.**

## Needs Improvement/Unsatisfactory

- ❑ **Student sits in class, has a side conversation and is unwilling to join class discussion.**
- ❑ **Student performs work away from group or pretends to work.**
- ❑ **Student needs constant reminders to stay on task throughout class time.**
- ❑ **Student works on other assignments or extracurricular activities other than class requirements.**
- ❑ **Student shows offensive demeanor or language towards others.**
- ❑ **Student interrupts others, very often is found off-topic and off-task.**
- ❑ **Student arrived late to class and without a pass several times in a grading period**