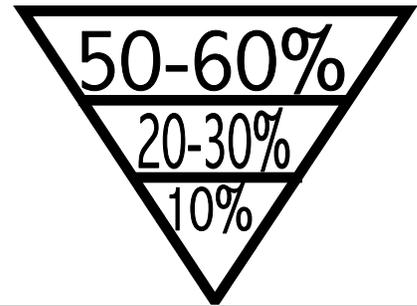


MR. BYERS' CLASS GUIDELINES

I am excited about the up-coming semester and our learning experience together. I want us to create the very best possible learning environment. Please read these GUIDELINES on in-class behavior and grading policies.



CLASSROOM RULES:

Class begins with the ringing of the “late bell”. When the bell has finished ringing, students are required to be IN their assigned seats ready and prepared to learn. They should not racing TO their seats. They should have all required supplies: a writing utensil, assigned textbook, and any other necessary materials. Keep in mind that a “lack of preparation” is an offense and obstacle to a proper education!

Instructional time is precious to me and to my students. Every effort will be made between the teacher and student to resolve any problems or obstacles to an education. However, any intentional extreme disruption will result in the offending student being removed (at least temporarily) from the classroom with involvement of an administrator, as detailed in school policy and Student Handbook all students are to have read and are obligated to sign. Parents will be notified by telephone when such an incident occurs. The student will probably not be permitted to return to class until contact has been established with the parents. Communication is very important and necessary for us to work TOGETHER to solve problems. Removing a student from class is not done lightly and should not occur often. Together, we are seeking to build responsibility and we are each accountable for our decisions.

THE RETENTION TRIANGLE

- Simply put, if you ONLY read something new, you will only retain and remember about 10% of it.
- If you READ it...and take “dictation-like” notes (just copying something WITHOUT thinking about it)...you will retain approximately 20-30% of the new material.
- If you READ it...and take notes where you “put it into your own words”...you will retain approximately 50-60% of the new material.

HOMEWORK POLICY:

Homework is due the day it is assigned. It will NOT be accepted (for FULL credit) any later except in the case of a “*real and actual emergency*”. In the event of a “*real and actual emergency*”, please send a signed explanatory note with your son or daughter to school the next day. An extension will be granted for “*real and actual emergencies*”, but NOT for such things as, “My dog (or baby brother) ate my homework”, or “I forgot it on the school bus”.

Long-term assignments, if due on the day absent, are STILL due the day the student returns. Missed quizzes and tests MUST be scheduled after or before school in consultation with Mr. Byers. Obviously, it is best if the student makes up any missing assignment as quickly as possible. See the additional HANDOUT: Mr. Byers’ Grading Policy for fuller details and guidelines. **LATE**-work is accepted...with a variety of conditions. Obviously, turning it in on-time is best, but even a 20%-penalty for late work is better than 0% for no-work!

SPECIAL NOTES:

- [1] It is the responsibility of the STUDENT to find out what work was missed and to arrange any/all make-up plans with Mr. Byers before (the **BEST** option as I usually arrive by 7:00am) or after school.
- [2] It is OVERWHELMINGLY the case that students who eventually fail the class have large numbers of assignments that they never completed or made up. In truth!!!, it is virtually impossible to fail this class if the stu-

dent completes his/her work and seeks in-class or after-class assistance for any difficulties!

[3] In much the same way, outside employment, athletic/extracurricular activities are privileges that occur only IN ADDITION TO regular school work. If a student chooses to be involved in other activities, he/she must remember that academic work at W.A.H.S. (something that is required by law!) comes first. He/she must discipline his/her time and efforts accordingly. Those activities are NOT acceptable “excuses”.

EXTRA CREDIT:

Students (and parents) inevitably ask about “extra-credit” as a way to improve their grades. It is my policy to regularly integrate some form of additional credit into most texts and quizzes. However, I will NOT create additional projects specifically for extra-credit. My goal is that extra-credit should only ENHANCE a student’s performance level. It is NOT intended to replace missed or uncompleted work.

CHEATING:

Cheating is a serious problem with serious consequences! Cheating is defined as “*gaining or giving information to another student which allows a higher grade than either involved individual deserves*”. Cheating on a test, quiz, or homework assignment will result in the student receiving a “zero” for that assignment. This will have a serious effect on the marking period grade. If the student is a member of the National Honor Society, or plans to apply for membership, an aggressive letter will be sent to the advisor of that group requesting expulsion from or refusal of membership to that student based on his/her lack of integrity and honor. A written report will also be made to the school administration and a letter will be placed in the student’s permanent disciplinary file. Upon any offense, Mr. Byers freely acknowledges that the student has necessarily invited suspicion on all of his/her subsequent academic efforts!

ALTERNATIVE GRADING SCALE:

For each nine-week marking period (but NOT the state Final Exam), I make available the **ALTERNATIVE GRADING SCALE**. Students who meet certain requirements have a higher level of comprehension and retention than is ordinarily and completely revealed in assessments such as the longer tests or exams. Students are eligible for the **ALTERNATIVE GRADING SCALE** if:

- ...they are NEVER removed from class due to disciplinary problems,
- ...miss no more than THREE classes (for any reason) in a marking period,
- ...and complete at least 85% of their homework assignments on-time.

Base Score	Points added
99-90	+1
89-80	+2
79-70	+3
69-60	+4
50-0	+5

These are the things EXPECTED of a good student day after day. Only students who meet these requirements are eligible for the **ALTERNATIVE GRADING SCALE**. This is not designed to punish the unruly or the absent, but students who are disciplined, present, and do their assignments have a higher comprehension level not always measured through traditional testing methods. I believe in giving credit for that effect. The **ALTERNATIVE GRADING SCALE** is listed to the right.

**Mr. Mark
Byers**

I look forward to a great semester with your child. If you have concerns, please monitor the teacher webpage, check Grades-on-Line, and use the school e-mail system (mark_byers@abss.k12.nc.us). I check my e-mail several times each day, so it is the BEST way to get a response! I respect the honor you have given me as part of your son or daughter’s educational experience. I pray that I will be found faithful in that trust.