

- ★ On the **following page (page #2)** you will write a friendly letter to incoming 8th graders. The overall idea is to give them some information and advice that you wish you may have had when you started 8th grade.
- ★ Your letter should be:
  - Three to five paragraphs in length ( 5-8 sentences = 1 paragraph)
  - In standard 12 point font, In Arial or Times New Roman
  - Either single (1.0) or double spaced (2.0) "Line Spacing"
  - Either block paragraphs or indent paragraphs.
  - Basic rules of writing should be followed → sequencing and flow, complete sentences, correct: spelling, capitalization, grammar, punctuation
  - If these are not followed and impacts the reading of your letter points will be taken off or extra credit will not be awarded
- ★ Each paragraph should cover a different topic. Some topic ideas include:
  - What are some materials or resources that they will need or would be nice to have for Social Studies?
  - What will they be learning about in 8th grade Social Studies? Are there any topics in particular you think they could start researching over the summer?
  - What was your favorite learning topic or activity we did in Social Studies this year?
  - What types of things do you do in this Social Studies class? What can they expect to do each class or throughout the year?
  - What were some of the most important lessons and or skills you learned this year in Social Studies?
  - How can they be successful in Social Studies?
  - How can they avoid failure in Social Studies class?
  - What makes your teacher happy? How can you earn your teachers' respect?
  - What will make your teacher displeased? What could get you in trouble with your teacher?
  - If there is something you would do differently knowing what you know now? What would it be and why?
  - What will you miss about 8th grade Social Studies?
- ★ We plan on sharing these to our social studies class websites so the new 8th graders can see this advice over the summer and prepare for 8th grade early. Be creative and positive!

As my 8th grade year comes to an end I would like to give you key advice that I wish I would have known before I started 8th grade. You should have everything organized because if you don't you will be all over the place and it will just keep getting harder and harder so just have everything in a binder/ folder. Keep your papers organized like when the quarter is over throw the old papers away and keep the important ones. When the teacher gives you a paper that you think gives you information that could help you study for some type of test, keep those papers because they would really help you.

To be a successful student you need to pay attention in class because believe it or not what the teachers say can and do help you. When the teacher talks about a test I would recommend you to take notes on a piece of paper or a notebook and write down important stuff the teacher points out cause it will definitely help you a lot with classwork, quizzes, and projects. If you're missing something that you weren't at school for then ask a classmate about what you were doing in class because it is your responsibility to get your work done on your own. You can't just show up to school the next day and think that the class was waiting for you to come back, you need to get that done on your own time cause class goes on without you.

Some things I would do differently was keeping everything organized and keeping up with my assignments. That Was a huge thing for me in 8th grade, I couldn't keep up with my work and I would just get zeros on assignments that were really easy. I just didn't put in the effort to do any assignments. So make sure you do your assignments and turn it in when it needs to be done. Particularly in Mr. Jones class, he gives you work time in class and if you are absent on a day you get one extra day to turn it in. If I were you I would get the work done in class so you don't have to make it up.

To make a teacher displeased is by being disrespectful and in 8th grade they do not tolerate disrespect. They will send you to the office for Dr. E to handle the situation. If you don't like the way a teacher is going about things then take deep breaths and walk away from the situation. Most of the time teachers are trying to help you and give you information so you can understand the assignment. Please do not be disrespectful it will ruin your whole 8th grade year, 99.9% of the time the teachers always win in an argument so I wouldn't try that with them.

My all time favorite topic/ lesson we did in social studies is in the beginning of the year we did the land bridge theory. It was fun when we got into groups and built a bridge. I loved whenever we played silent ball because when you didn't catch the ball you had to read a part of the textbook which I felt was a fun way to learn and an easy way. Mr. Jones is fun and I think next year's 8th graders will really enjoy him. He brings a fun energy to class and makes learning fun in his own little ways.

