Attitudes are contagious . . . is yours worth catching?

Hello,

As your 7th grade teacher, I wrote this letter to welcome you to seventh-grade and room 201. You are entering your third year in the middle school as I enter my fourteenth-year of teaching seventh-grade. My love for teaching had been at the sixth-grade level for thirteen years. Moving to a different grade level was a big change for me; however, change is good, and I am looking forward to another great year. If we want to be successful in anything we do, we must be open and willing to change and to face our challenges with confidence. The 2023/2024 school year is going to be an exciting, successful learning experience for all of us.

I want you to know that being nervous is natural; however, do not allow yourself to worry about this year. We will put those nervous feelings to good use. We will use them as positive energy to get you started and keep you going. You may be nervous about academics or other students who are not always kind. You should know that I **do not** and **will not** tolerate any bullying from anyone, so if that has been an issue you have seen or experienced in the past, well, that is just where it will stay. You have the right to feel emotionally and physically safe at school, and I promise you I will make that happen. You have a plethora of learning to do this year, so that brain of yours needs to be available at all times. Therefore, we want to keep you feeling good about yourself, so you are ready to learn. Nobody is better than anyone else, nor will people be treated that way! Make good choices for yourself and allow me to take care of any of the issues. As for academics, expect to be challenged. You will not “ask Google or Siri” or give up by thinking you “don’t get it” then quit. I will not allow you to simply quit when challenged; learn to face challenges and accept mistakes because these are what build inner strength and endurance. Through it all – academic struggles or other struggles along the way - keep in mind something that Henry Ford said, “When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.”

We will work together as a team in room 201, and you are a unique and integral part of this team. Cooperation, honesty, trust, responsibility, respect, and being prepared are expected from you, as they are the keys to success. We will support one another by building one another up. I hope you are ready to have your character **challenged** and **strengthened**. I promise that what I expect from you, you can expect from me as well; I play fair. We are here for a purpose - to strengthen our brains and build a solid foundation for success in life. This is our job for the next nine months. No matter what happens, remember that **effort equals achievement**. The rewards for your effort, dedication, positive attitude, and perseverance are ~ respect for yourself, success, happiness, proud teachers, proud parents/guardians, stronger work ethic and eighth-grade. It is not only academics we are preparing you for. It is also about meeting new people, learning to get along with and respecting others, having a good attitude and accepting challenges. If you want to find success, then I suggest that you come in ready to follow the path we have paved to get you there. We teachers are here to help YOU.

Now for your chance to share a little bit about you. Neatly and in your own handwriting, complete the following on a separate sheet of paper: I want to know:

1. What are three (3) of your strengths/positive qualities? Feel free to explain.
2. What do you believe are two (2) qualities of a truly good person or role model? Feel free to explain.
3. What do you know about the following character terms: **cooperation, trust, respect, responsibility, punctuality, kindness, and organization**?
4. Finally, I want you to set your first goal to help you be successful this year. Then list a few “things” you can do to meet your goal. The “things” you do are really called action steps. ☺

If you choose to complete the aforementioned, you demonstrate your willingness to be successful. You will be off to a tremendous start in terms of responsibility and cooperation, and you will awaken your thinking and writing skills. You will also receive your responsibility grade! ☺

Finally, do you recall the character challenge I mentioned? I challenge you to accept the responsibility of practicing the character traits listed in item #3 above. Consider this a contract between an employer and employee; I **expect** that you will comply. Our jobs will soon begin, and this is your head start to success. Thank you in advance for sharing a little bit of you, and for an attitude worth catching!

 Sincerely,

 Mrs. Kriegl

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Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Witness Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_