

Mrs. Chelsea Gary
7th Grade English and Language Arts
Youree Drive Middle School

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students,

First, I'd like to tell you how truly excited I am about starting a brand new year here at Youree. Seventh grade is an important year, and I can't wait to see what we can all accomplish together. Please know that I am here to answer any questions and alleviate any concerns you may have. If we work together, I know we will have an amazing year!

So what do you need to know to be successful? Let's start with my expectations.

Classroom Expectations and Rules

1. I expect that students will follow all rules laid out by the YDMS handbook as well as my class rules: the five P's. Students are expected to be **prepared, productive, prompt, polite, and positive**.
 - This means I want you to come to school on time, with your materials, ready to learn, and with a good attitude. Pretty simple stuff, right? The rules in your handbook are a bit more in-depth, so I would suggest that students and parents review those together at home.
2. Ok, that part is mostly about what students are supposed to do. Let's talk about what I expect ALL of us to do. In order to learn and communicate, there must be an atmosphere of mutual respect.
 - I promise to be respectful in my approach to teaching students and communicating with students and parents. It is my expectation that I will be met with a similar attitude. Going forward, I think this understanding will help us all to do our best this year!

Now what happens if you do or do not choose to follow the rules?

Rewards and Consequences

1. Rewards are important. They help us keep our focus on the positive ways our behavior affects our lives. I personally like to reward myself with ice cream, but what about my wonderful students?
 - For class-wide achievements, (like everyone bringing back a signed copy of this letter) I will choose from one of several possible rewards. My personal favorites are brain breaks and breaking out the prize box!
 - Sometimes one student in particular should be recognized for his or her excellence. In this case, I will call or write home to that student's family or hand out prizes from the prize box! We also have our lovely classroom reading nook that students can earn time in. Those are your rewards! I look forward to bestowing them on you often; *remember that just how often is entirely up to you.*
2. Consequences are equally important. They keep us on track when our behavior becomes detrimental to ourselves or others.
 - On a first offense, a student will get a verbal warning.
 - On a second offense, I will call home to discuss the issue with a parent.
 - On a third offense, I will write a minor referral in JCAMPUS and call home again.

- On a fourth offense, the student will write me a behavior essay.
- On a fifth offense, I will assign after school detention.

I will do my best to be fair and objective when administering these consequences. Please understand that the rules and consequences are in place to benefit everyone so that we can learn and grow together. Once again, *remember that how often these consequences are used is up to you.*

3. Supplies

It is unrealistic to expect students to succeed without the necessary tools. I trust that you have all gotten a supply list from the office. Please make sure that your student has all of these materials by no later than the end of our first week. *The only addition I would make to the list would be Kleenex, hand sanitizer, and paper towels for our room. This addition is, of course, **entirely optional**, but any and all contributions are welcomed and much appreciated.*

4. Communication

Please feel free to contact me if you ever have questions or concerns! My email address is crich@caddoschools.org. *I would also encourage parents to join our Google Classroom! It makes it super simple to see what your student is doing in class. To join, use this class code: 58huyq3*

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions. I ask that both student and parent sign below stating that you've read this letter. I look forward to seeing all of you at Back to School Night!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Gary

X _____

Parent/Guardian Signature

X _____

Student Signature