



Couchiching Heights Public School 705-325-9311



Ms.Duncan's Grade 7/8

Website: <http://marciduncan.edublogs.org>

Tuesday, September 4, 2012.

Welcome

Welcome to our Grade 7/8 community! My name is Marci Duncan and I will be your child's teacher this year. I see myself as a learner and look forward to learning with your child this year.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning this school year.

Norms in our Classroom Community and School Community

Today we had a discussion about what helps us to succeed in school. The Growing Success document by the Ontario Ministry of Education states that the learning skills and work habits assessed on the provincial report card are critically important to student success. We created our classroom norms together by breaking down the learning skills and work habits into success criteria that we can use throughout the year.

Our classroom pledge is: I show respect for myself and others by following the success criteria for classroom norms, learning skills and work habits.

Please see the attached table with the learning skills and work habits success criteria.

I believe that every student in the classroom is a unique and special person. Sometimes students make inappropriate choices and when that happens we will follow these 3 steps:

1. Reminder
2. Warning and student will receive a reflection sheet. The reflection sheet will sit on the students desk as a reminder that they need to change their behaviour choices. If the student does not need another reminder before the next scheduled break they will hand back the reflection sheet. This sheet will be filed. If a student is accumulating sheets the parent/guardian will be contacted.
3. Parent/Guardian contacted. The reflection sheet will now come home to be signed.

To make this a successful year we all need to work together to develop the learning skills and work habits students need to succeed in school and the world beyond.

Please sign and return the attached behavioural contract.

Classroom Norms, Learning Skills and Work Habits

Responsibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I do the tasks I am given. - I do my best work. - I read/write for homework. - I speak at the appropriate times. - I participate in class/group/partner discussions. - I am an attentive listener. - I manage my own behaviour and make good choices. - I act friendly and I do not bully. 	Organization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I follow the routines in the classroom. - I come to school ready with my agenda. - I look after my things. - I look after the things in the classroom. - I manage my time to complete tasks and achieve goals.
Independent Work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I use the charts and success criteria to help me. - I use class time appropriately to complete tasks. - I follow instructions. 	Collaboration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I work cooperatively in a group. - I do my share of the work in a group. - I try various group roles - I listen positively to the ideas and opinions of others. - I work with others to solve problems. - I share my thinking with the group. - I disagree in an agreeable way.
Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I look for ways to learn and ask questions. - I try new things with a positive attitude. - I speak up politely if there is a problem. - I encourage others - I am a positive role model/leader. - I stand up for myself and friends. 	Self Regulation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I write a learning skills goal and reflect on it daily. - I can pick out my strengths in my work. - I can pick out areas to improve my work. - I can write goals and think about my learning. - If I don't understand I ask for help. - I know what I have done well and what I need to get better at. - I keep trying even though I find some things difficult to do at first.

How are you learning today?

N - needs work S - satisfactory G - good E- excellent

Agendas

The school agenda is a communication tool between home and school. Students are responsible for bringing their agenda to school and home daily. Students need to have their agenda initialed daily by a parent.

Please initial your child's agenda daily.

Starting next week, students will pick a goal from the learning skills and work habits table. They will write their goal on the weekly page of their agenda and then reflect on their progress each day. We will use the leveling system from the Ontario Provincial Report Card for learning skills and work habits. E = excellent, G = good, S = satisfactory, and N - needs work.

We will work on identify areas we want to improve. This means that students may want to focus on a skill/habit that needs improvement or they may choose to work on a skill that they are good at but want to move to excellent. This list of success criteria is itself a learning tool. Every student will engage in it to learn at their best, and develop skills for the future.

Sincerely,

Marci Duncan

mduncan@mail1.scdsb.on.ca

705-325-9311

Going Paperless

In an effort to decrease our environmental footprint we are going to try to minimize photocopying and use of paper.

----- cut here -----

Using Technology to Connect and Minimize our Environmental Impact:

Student name (please print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

- my child has access to the internet outside of school.
- I/we will check the class blog for information on what is happening in the classroom.
- I/we will read all future newsletters on the class blog.

Reflection Sheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

I received a reminder and warning about the following behaviour(s):

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I statement:

Teacher Signature

Student Signature

Parent Signature

Comments:

Behaviour Contract: Norms and Expectations in our Classroom Community and School

Together we created a list of norms and expectations for our school year. We will use the following success criteria to set goals:

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I, _____, agree to work on improving my learning skills and work habits this school year, by using the success criteria, setting goals, reflecting on my progress and making changes to become a confident learner, that is ready for high school and the world beyond.

Student signature

I agree that I will help _____ to develop the learning skills and work habits needed to succeed in school and the world beyond.

Teacher

Parent(s)/Guardian(s)