



Policies in Lundstrom-land

Dear parents and families,
This newsletter has been assembled as a way to inform you of our classroom policies

and procedures.

You will be receiving updates of policies, current happenings, and upcoming events via email or through our classroom website <http://www.hasd.org/faculty/DanLundstrom/> (also accessible by going to HASD.org, contact us, Lundstrom). In general, I find it most effective to send updates and alerts via email; please let me know if there is a better way to get you information about what's going on here.

Although this is my eighth year as a middle school teacher, we never stop learning, and I am still learning along with your students. I look forward to working with you so that your student may have the most successful year possible. Like our students, I cannot promise a mistake-free year, but I *can* promise to do everything in my power to help your child grow and thrive as a learner!

Lundstrom-Land 7-Day Celebrity

Beginning later this quarter and continuing most weeks throughout the year (if students choose to participate), we will feature one student per week as "7-Day Celebrity." Each student will be entitled to privileges such as couch privileges and the "comfy" chair (both at the discretion of Mr. L.) and (if students choose) a brief portion of time to share information about his or her family, interests, and/or hobbies with the rest of the class. You are encouraged to help students find pictures and information to present to the rest of the class.

In the past, I have also invited "7-Day Celebrity" students to bring in money for a Subway sub on a given day during the school year, and we enjoy lunch in the classroom. Some students have also chosen to bring in treats to share with the class during their 7-Day Celebrity week as well. I welcome your thoughts and input on this and all ideas.

Contact Information

My email address is DanLundstrom@HASD.org, or call me at (920) 757-7159 Ext. 51203



Completed Assignments, Late Policy and "The Golden Ticket"

As middle school students, our learners begin to take on more and more responsibility for completing assignments, contributing in class, and consulting the teacher if there are any concerns.

To help motivate students and to recognize the successes of our class as a whole, one option we might consider is keeping track of the number of assignments completed in a row for the class overall. For every 15 assignments completed in a row by the entire class, all of the students may be rewarded with a healthy snack or a "class pass" on a particular assignment (if the class chooses to agree to the challenge). When we reach 30 in a row, we will celebrate with recess or free time!

Handing in late assignments or failing to complete homework, however, may result in an Honor Level Discipline infraction. Although we sometimes face negative consequences for poor choices, I will regularly remind the students about my willingness to work with them and for them through my words and actions.

Luckily, the students in Lundstrom-Land (and other participating classrooms) are given "Golden Tickets" each quarter, which can be used as a way to avoid late homework repercussions and gain an extra day to finish the assignment.

In my experience with students ranging from 5th through 8th grade, my terms for late homework for all subjects taught by myself are as follows:

1st day—if turned in before 8:00 the morning of the next school day *no grade reduction* (other penalties—i.e. infractions—still apply)
1 Day late—25% reduction in grade
2 or more days late—40% reduction

All policies will be clearly posted and will be thoroughly discussed with the students in Mr. Lundstrom's room. As I have informed the students, I reserve the right to modify or adjust any policies accordingly as the need arises. If there are any concerns or suggestions, I will be happy to address them with you.

***All students are responsible to check the classroom assignment notebook or ask a reliable classmate for homework assigned on days of absence.**

Name Policy

Assignments turned in **without names** will result in an *incomplete (NHI—Not Handed In)* **until the assignment is claimed!!!** It is the student's responsibility to check the "nameless paper area" and re-submit any unclaimed work.

The List

Students who choose not to follow directions, talk during Whisper Mode, or ignore classroom rules will either be added to The List or receive an Honor Level Discipline slip at the discretion of Mr. L.; accumulation of three or more "List worthy" incidents will result in a mandatory HLD (Honor Level Discipline) infraction slip.

When adding to The List, students write their names next to a number:

- Students must use **real names** followed by **the date and period of infraction**.
- Names must be **legible** (able to be read) and the **same size as the numbers**.

For every full day of outstanding behavior (with no "List-worthy" incidents), students may remove their name from the list. Students also may be given the option of writing the **Responsibility Paragraph** to remove their name and one incident from **The List**.

Assignment Notebooks and The Golden Clip – Symbol of Honor

Your child's assignment book is an important communication tool. For the first several weeks of school, I ask that your child show you his/her assignment book and have you initial it daily. There should be something written for each subject each day *even if there was no homework assigned*. Students are encouraged to use it to also keep track of after school activities i.e. lessons, practices, special events as well as class assignments. Notice, too, that there are reference pages for your child's use.

Please reinforce to your child that using the assignment notebook will help him/her to organize, prioritize, and manage time. Simply by asking to review your student's assignment notebook (or "Best Friend" as we call it in Lundstrom-Land) you are already encouraging dialogue and expressing interest in your student's day. There is also a space provided where you can write any comments or questions for me. Please remind your child to show me these notes.

The "Golden Clip" program acknowledges that great communication and good study habits that can result from nightly interaction between parents and students. If your student has a parent or responsible adult sign off on his or her assignment notebook on 15 consecutive nights (and in-turn has it checked by the teacher), the student will receive the prestigious "Golden Clip" award of excellence! If a signature or check-off opportunity is missed—other than for absence—the 15 day requirement starts over. Encourage your students to completely fill in all assignments every day, look at and double check for completion, and don't forget to ask what we learned and talked about in school. In general, after the first 4 weeks of school I do not check for assignment notebook completion, but I am certainly willing to by parent request. Thanks for the help!

Incentives

As the year progresses, we will be introducing various incentives for great behavior, cooperation, outstanding answers, contribution to class discussion and good deeds done for others. These may include, but are not limited to *L-bucks*, *Study Hoops*, and eventually *chair or couch privileges*. You'll find out more about these exciting programs in future classroom updates.

Students are required to sign a statement indicating that they have read and understand the policies contained in this newsletter, as well as attain a parent signature (this can be done on this newsletter or another piece of paper). You are welcome to hold on to this special beginning of the year Lundstrom-land Ledger to use as a reference for policies. For any questions, comments or concerns, I can be reached via phone at (920) 757-7159 Ext.51203. You may also email me at your convenience at DanLundstrom@HASD.org. -Mr. L.



Whisper Mode

"Whisper Mode" and "The List" are used as disciplinary tools in Mr. L's classroom.

Whisper Mode is a time of quiet in the classroom during which students are not to speak above a whisper, or act in ways that distract others. When Whisper Mode is engaged (a light at

the front of the room is turned on to indicate Whisper Mode), Mr. L. should not be able to hear any open communication between students.

The Whisper Mode light acts as a visual reminder for students to focus on listening and learning. Distracting behavior, noise, or talking at a volume that can be heard by Mr. Lundstrom is contrary to the spirit of Whisper Mode and will result in adding a student's name to **The List**.

Responsibility Paragraph

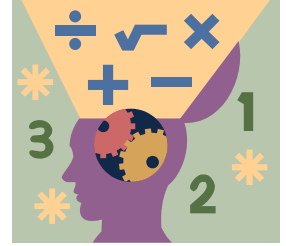
I am responsible for my actions. No one makes me do what I do. If my work is poorly done, it is my responsibility to improve. If I misbehave, it is my responsibility to correct my behavior. It is time for me to stop blaming others for the way I act and to start taking responsibility for my actions. I am who I am because of the choices I make. Responsibility is the key to my success. If it is to be, it is up to me!



Math 5,4,3,2,1, NHI/0 (Mr. L's Students Only)

Math-In-the-Real-World (MIRW) NOTEBOOKS:

Students are asked to take notes during math. The hardcover notebook that they purchased is to be used, so that the notes stay intact throughout the year. These notes **are** allowed to be used on tests. This notebook should also be brought home with any math homework to provide students with examples of how to solve the problems in their homework. Math notebooks are for the students' advantage and are not regularly graded.



DAILY HOMEWORK:

Students may normally expect to have 10-20 problems of homework each night, except Fridays (see below).

FRIDAY "OPPORTUNITES" and Chapter Tests

Friday Opportunities (a.k.a quizzes) are essentially an opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge gained over the past week and over the year. MIRW (math) notebooks are allowed to be used on the opportunity. Students will be asked to recall past information, and it is therefore essential to maintain a well organized math notebook. Opportunities usually occur weekly to bi-weekly and are worth varying amounts of points (usually ranging from 20-45 points). Chapter tests are used to review concepts once a given chapter in the book has been completed and are generally worth slightly more than Friday Opportunities.

Math GRADING:

Daily work is graded on a 5,4,3,2,1,0 point scale.

- 5-fully completed with over 90% correct answers
- 4-fully completed—over 75% correct answers
- 3-fully attempted—only 50-75% accurate
- 2-most problems attempted—less than 50% accuracy
- 1-multiple problems not completed
- NHI/0(not handed in)

Although student percentages are *not simply based on right or wrong answers*, we will correct problems together as a class so that students may get a feel for their understanding of the concepts. Student understanding and ability to solve mathematical challenges will be demonstrated on their "opportunities" (aka quizzes and tests).

Grades, Grades, Grades

The 6th grade GMS grading policy is as follows:

97-100%	A+
93-96%	A
90-92%	A-
87-89%	B+
83-86%	B
80-82%	B-
77-79%	C+
73-76%	C
70-72%	C-
67-69%	D+
63-66%	D
60-62%	D-
59% and lower	F (Unsatisfactory)
Incomplete	I

Classroom Economy

Shortly after we have established the routine for the new school year, we will begin to implement a classroom economy. More detailed information will be sent home in upcoming weeks, but here's a preview of what we'll be doing.

In short, the students experience an in-depth, year-long lesson in economics through the use of classroom cash (a.k.a. "L-bucks"). Students will be paid for various positions and classroom employment opportunities. Students will need to pay rent for the use of their desks, and before long, students will be managing checking and savings accounts held at Lundstrom-land National Bank. Later in the year, enterprising students may even have the chance to start their own business!

****All policies are clearly posted and have been thoroughly discussed with the students in Mr. Lundstrom's room.** As I have informed the students, I reserve the right to modify or adjust any policies accordingly as the need arises. **If there are any concerns or suggestions, I will be happy to address them with you.**

You are encouraged to check on your student's progress online, which will be updated by me *at least* once per week (barring unforeseen circumstances). Thank you for your support!