

September 4, 2007

Dear Family Members and Students,

I am honored to be your teacher this year. I look forward to getting to know you through our learning experiences. I would like to introduce myself as well as share the expectations of our learning environment.

First, my name is Ms. Virnoche. I graduated from Pacific Lutheran University in August 2005. This will be my third year teaching. I look forward to being a new contributing part of the Warrior community. I bring to you enthusiasm and dedication to the learning process. I am currently a student myself. I am pursuing my Masters of Arts in Education through Pacific Lutheran this year. Sharing the lifelong learning process with the students will be an honor. We will grow in our learning together.

Secondly, our classroom and learning experiences will be standards driven. Students will be aware of the learning expectations and standards will remain intentional in their learning as well as reflective. As an educator, I will remain accommodating to students' learning needs in order for them to be successful in their learning experiences.

Next, I expect classroom behaviors to not interfere with the learning activities. Therefore, I expect respectful contribution to the classroom discussions and activities. If behavior shows otherwise, I will follow the school discipline policy. I will remain in contact with the parents if these behaviors arise.

Attached are the learning expectations for your 8th Grade student in Reading, Writing, and Communication. I have also provided a copy of our classroom rules and norms.

Furthermore, I again look forward to growing together as learners. I encourage your involvement in our learning, whether it is at home, in the classroom or school community. Together, we will be successful.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via email or phone. My contact information is provided below.

Sincerely,

Laura Virnoche
Sacajawea Middle School
Pre-AP LA/SS
8th Grade LA/SS
Advisory

lvirnoche@fwps.org
(253) 945-4926
7:00 am- 3:00 pm
5th Period Planning
12:45-1:45

In order to ensure a safe learning environment, we have established classroom “norms” or expectations. In order to create a positive and successful learning environment students will practice these classroom expectations.

Be prepared.

- “Work-to-go” complete
- Pencil and Paper Ready
- Be on time.

- In seat when bell rings starting the “Do now”
 - Not talking to neighbors

Respect Property.

- Desk is clean and mark free
- Use supplies respectfully

Respect Others.

- Speak kind words to each other
- Allowing others to focus without distraction

Be helpful.

- Share
- Contribute

Listen to the speaker.

- Follow Directions
- Do not talk over others
- Raise your hand to speak

Keep a clean learning environment.

- Stay organized
- Pick up your desk area before you leave
- Throw trash away/Recycle

In order to have a clean, productive learning environment:

No gum

No electronics

Only Water Bottles with water and closing top

Grading:

Grading of assignments, projects and assessments will be directly linked to the new report card. Federal Way is moving towards “Standards – Based Instruction.” This means that students will earn a grade for what they know and are able to demonstrate in alignment with the Essential Academic Learning Requirements – the standards. Although traditional grades (ABC’s) will continue to be used on report cards, progress reports, and on the computer grade check, assignments and assessments may be marked on the BAME scale, which refers to “Exceeding”, “Meeting”, “Approaching” or “Beginning” according to grade level standards. See chart below:

Standards Based Traditional: BAME

Ex	Exceeding	90+100% =A’s
Me=	Meeting	80-89%= B’s
Ap=	Approaching	70-79% = C’s
Be=	Beginning	65%-69%= C-
Be- =	Beginning	0-64% = F

Using this scale, students will be provided with assessments in which they will receive grades assessed by this scale. Students will then be provided with a reflection opportunity when they receive their scores. Students will receive progress reports so they are able to keep track of their progress. When report cards come out they will be in traditional grade format (ABC’s) yet they will be derived from multiple assignments and entries based on the BAME standards based assessment scale.

If you have any questions, I will honorably discuss them with you.
Thank you!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

* Please do not call me during classroom instruction time. Email me if you have a concern during the school day (other than planning time, before/after school).

Email: lvirnoche@fwps.org

Classroom Phone Number: (253) 945- 4926

Planning Time: 5th Period (12:45- 1:45)

Availability: Before School 7:00-7:45am; After School: 2:45-3:00pm