Welcome to Learning Strategies! I am excited to have you in my class. This year we will be focusing on teaching you the skills necessary to be successful in high school. You may find this class to be different from your other classes. Learning Strategies is about giving you the tools to take charge of your education and make the most of your time here at Leon. We will be learning time management skills, study skills, organizational skills, goal planning, self-advocacy, and self-monitoring. This class will also serve as a way for you to become more familiar and active in your IEP planning.

**Contact Information**

I am available to you anytime you need me. I encourage you to email me or come by the classroom if you have a question about school or just need to talk about something going on in your life. You may make appointments to see me by emailing me or seeing me before or after class.

 Name: Mrs. Taylor Whittle

 Room Number: N112

Email: whittlet@leonschools.net

**Course Outline**

We will be covering several units of study this school year. The main purpose of this Learning Strategies class is to give you the tools you need to succeed in high school. Along with skill building, we will be identifying subjects or areas that you may be struggling with and spending time on those areas. Here is a brief overview of our main areas of focus:

1. Organization and Time Management
2. Self-Advocacy
3. Communication
4. Study Skills and Test Taking Skills
5. Coping Strategies
6. Goal Planning

Every other Friday you can expect a quiz about what we have learned. A written exam will be given at the end of each semester.

**Grade Breakdown**

We will regularly check your grades in this class and your other classes. In general, you can expect assignments in my class to be worth the following amounts of points:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Grading Scale (Percentages) | Grading Scale |
| Assessments                 70%Classwork and Weekly Assignments 30% | A = 90 – 100%B = 80 – 89%C = 70 – 79%D = 60 – 69% |

 The majority of your homework in this class will be things you complete in school, such as having your calendar filled out appropriately and keeping your backpack and binder organized.

**Class Goals**

I have high expectations for your academic progress this year. You may rest assured that I will give you all the skills and tools necessary to meet these goals; however, you must do your part to help yourself and your class achieve.

1. All students will keep one binder with dividers (with pockets) inside for all of their classes. Students will keep this binder organized, with daily self backpack checks and weekly teacher checks to ensure students are keeping track of their grades, homework, and important dates in each class.
2. Students will learn a sense of self-advocacy and take initiative in goal planning, self-monitoring, and assuring any accommodations are met.
3. Students will not have any behaviors or incidents in their classes. Implementing appropriate calming techniques learned to assist them in staying focused in their learning environments.

**Rules, Consequences and Rewards**

All students are expected to follow the rules of this classroom. These rules are in place in order to help us have a productive environment for learning. The first letters of these rules form the word LEARN—by following these rules we will learn have a positive, safe, learning environment.

1. Look, listen, and follow directions.
2. Enter class prepared.
3. Always use class time for class work.
4. Respect everyone—your teacher, your classmates, and yourself.
5. Never give up.

Should you choose to break these rules, there are specific consequences that result. A learning-focused classroom is the only way to ensure that all students are given equal opportunities to learn.

|  |
| --- |
| *Consequence:* |
| Verbal Warning |
| 2nd Warning |
| Student-Teacher Conference  |
| Phone call home to parents |
| Lunch Detention |
| Referral to Guidance/Administration |

These consequences apply to the breaking of general classroom rules.  The breaking of school rules, extreme disrespect towards the teacher or other students, etc. will be handled with a different set of consequences as found in your student handbook.

Choosing to act in a professional way does have rewards.  I will acknowledge daily behavior that is exceptionally outstanding. Students that demonstrate excellent behavior each day will be rewarded with tickets that will go in a class jar. On quiz days, 2 tickets will be drawn from your class jar.  If your ticket is chosen you will have the option of receiving a positive phone call home, receiving extra credit points on your quiz grade for that week, or receiving a music/computer pass for the following week.

**Citizenship, Academic Integrity, Attendance, Cell Phones, Internet Access**

 Students will adhere to the policies regarding these as found in their student handbook.

**IEP’s and Accommodations** For most of you, I will be your case manager for your IEP. If you have any questions regarding your IEP or the accommodations you receive at school, please do not hesitate to ask. I work closely with our guidance department and the counselors at the school to make sure you have everything you need to be successful.

**Goal Binder** You will have a binder that you keep in my classroom as a way to store materials you do not need in your classes. This binder will be checked frequently and used to help show the progress you make throughout the year.

**Make Up Work / Late Work**

My job is to see you succeed in all of your classes. I understand we all have special situations in our lives and sometimes need some extra help. However, you have to seek out this extra help. If you **miss** **a quiz or test**, you have **three** school days after the test was given to make it up (given on Friday, you have through the Wednesday of the next week). After those three days have passed, you have a permanent zero. You must take initiative and ask to take it.

 If you **fail any** **quiz** you have the opportunity to retake it. Again, you must ask to take it within **three** school days. Note that exams are *not* eligible for retake. If you miss a quiz, or want to retake it because of a bad grade, there are no excuses for not contacting me about a make-up or re-take.

If you are absent and miss an assignment, you have one day for each that you are absent to make up that work.  Please see me if you have any questions about this.

**Supply List**

The only specific supply needed for Learning Strategies is your agenda book. These will be passed out during the first week of school in your 4th period class.

**Bathroom/Hall Tickets**

Bathrooms are to be used in between classes. Each student will be administered two bathroom passes per nine week period. After these two passes are gone you will not receive anymore. Emergencies will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

**Food/Drink in the Classroom**

There should be no food or drinks (other than water) in the classroom.

*Please detach this page from the rest of this packet and return it to Mrs. Whittle.****This counts as your quiz for the week.***

This page must be returned no later than **Friday, August 16th, 2019**.

**\*** My signature acknowledges that I have read the above rules, procedures, and expectations for Mrs. Whittle’s Learning Strategies class and that I agree to follow them.

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      **Student Signature**  **Date**

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          **Student Printed Name**

**\*** My signature acknowledges that my student has reviewed the above classroom rules, procedures, and expectations with me for Mrs. Whittle’s Learning Strategies class and I understand my student is expected to follow them.

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    **Parent/Guardian Signature**  **Date**

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 **Parent/Guardian Printed Name**

**Parent/Guardian, please take a moment to fill out the questions below so that I can better assist your student in reaching our class goals this year:**

1. What is the best way to contact you? \_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_ House Phone \_\_\_\_ Email

Number/Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Is there anything special that I should know about your son or daughter that would 1) help me teach the student and 2) make the student more successful in school?