Requirements and General Information

Exit Interviews

Duhn, duhn, duuuuhhnn!
The Exit Interview is our culminating project, not only for this year, but also for your middle school careers.

You should “freak out” about it because it’s a really big deal. An enormous amount of thought, time, and work goes into it. This unit is worth many points and will have a big impact on your grade. Your finished project will be seen not only by me, but also by your other teachers, as well as your family and friends.

You should “relax a bit” because this will be a step-by-step process. You will have due dates along the way throughout this unit so that you stay caught up on all the work. You will have ample time to put your “best self” into your completed project. You will have plenty of opportunity to prepare and practice. And most importantly, this entire unit focuses on what you know the best - yourself.
Naturally, you will earn many points for this project in this class, language arts. However, you will also receive a grade in math, science, and social studies. You will be getting more information about those classes’ requirements in the coming weeks.

- The Exit Interview unit is made up of two parts: written assignments and the presentation.
  - We will be working on the written assignments during class over the next 3-4 weeks.
  - Presentations will be held during the last week of school and will take place in the boardroom of the district office.

Write this down:

- You will receive a grade in all core classes.
  - Some classes have specific requirements (stay tuned!!)
- There are two components
  1. Written Assignments
  2. Presentation
Written assignments will receive completion grades and will cover four areas of focus:

1. Self Reflection/Autobiography
2. Family and Friends
3. Education
4. Goals and the Future

- Written assignments will receive completion grades. That means that typically, my focus won’t necessarily be on spelling/grammar/punctuation, but rather your overall content. I will be looking to see that you completed the assignment that was due. Typically, I won’t be collecting assignments. I will come around during class work time to look over your assignment and record a grade, but you will hang on to all of your written assignments.

- I think of the topics of this unit as gradually widening concentric circles.
  - The circle closest to you is yourself. Thus, our first area of focus will be self-reflection and autobiography. More specifically, you will focus on the events in your life that have made you who you are today.
  - The next-widest circle includes your family and friends - the people who have had the biggest impact on your life. During this week, you will reflect on the influence those important people have had on you and pay tribute to them.
  - As the circles widen further from you, we move on to your education. What have you learned so far that will be important to you in your future? How has your education shaped you into the person you are today?
  - The first three topics lead us to our final circle - your plans and goals for the future. In these assignments you’ll discuss your goals, both immediate and distant, and the steps you’ll need to take to reach them. You’ll also imagine the type of person you envision yourself becoming.
During the final week of this unit, you will be putting together a Google slideshow.

- You must include one additional artifact. An artifact is an object of importance to you that represents something about you or something you cover in your presentation. Your artifact should be directly related to one of the written assignments you will be completing in the coming weeks. Some examples of artifacts include photo albums, trophies, stuffed animals, sports paraphernalia, objects related to specific hobbies, etc. We will talk about more examples of artifacts and how to include them in your presentation in the coming weeks.

- Your presentation will be timed. It may not be shorter than 7 minutes; it may not be longer than 10 minutes. You will lose points from your presentation grade if you do not meet the time limit requirements. Don’t panic about the time requirement! We will be talking more about this throughout the unit. You will have lots of time to prepare and practice.

- Your slideshow will contain 10 to 15 slides. We will talk more about your slides, the content, how they should look, and more in the coming weeks.

- Because this is a formal event that includes your teachers, family, and friends, we show our respect for this event by looking professional. You are expected to dress up, similar to how athletes are often expected to dress up on game days. Dressing up could include a button-down shirt, tie, slacks, school-appropriate dress, etc. This is part of your overall grade.
Your 8th grade core teachers will be at your presentation. You are not required to invite anyone else to your presentation if you do not wish. However, this presentation is a celebration of you and your accomplishments. It is nice to have the people who are most important to you there to enjoy your hard work.

There is no limit on the number of adults you invite to your presentation. However, you are limited on the number of school-age people you invite to your presentation.
Presentations will take place during the last week of school. We will begin scheduling time slots for presentations in a couple of weeks.

It is essential that you are on time to your presentation! There are many presentations scheduled each day, and we have to stick to our schedule out of respect to the presenters and their guests. If you are late to your presentation, you will receive late credit for the project.

During the week of presentations, you are expected to be at school for your presentation only, and any to which you have an invitation. You will not have any regular classes. Therefore, you are not to be on school grounds during that week.

Presentation Continued:

- Be on time!
- You are NOT to be on school grounds except for your presentation and any to which you have an invitation.
- Filming is optional. You must provide your own camera.
Timeline

- 5/2  MAPs test for reading
- 5/7  EPIC field trip
- 5/13-5/17  slide show work time
- 5/17  8th graders’ last day
- 5/20, 5/21, 5/22  Exit Interview presentations
- 5/22  8th grade field trip
- 5/23  6th and 7th graders’ last day
Questions