Dear Parents or Caregivers,

Welcome! I am pleased to inform you that I will be your child’s English language arts teacher. I set high expectations for all my students, and want to foster an atmosphere that invites critical thinking and deep analysis. The ability to read, write, and communicate effectively is important to every student’s academic success and bright future.

**Homework Policy**

I expect homework to be accomplished prior to each class. If an unusual circumstance prevents your child from doing his homework (sickness, injury, learning disability, or other serious problem), please send a note with your child in the morning, so that they can be excused for not doing their homework.

**Late Assignments**

Students are given plenty of time to complete assignments and are expected to turn them in on their due date. If your child is absent, they will get however many days absent, plus one to make up the work. **Your child is responsible for getting and making up missed assignments.**

**Assessment & Grades**

Assessments will be measured in writing, group presentations, and multi-media presentations. Students will be graded using a traditional grading scale. (A = 100-90, B = 89-80, C = 79-70, D = 69-60, F = 59-50) Summative assessments will account for 60% of the overall grade. Formative assessments will account for 40% and Diagnostic assessments for 0%.

**My Rules & Discipline**

I have two simple rules. 1. Be respectful. 2. Be prepared. When the rules are not followed there will be disciplinary consequences. My discipline procedures are as follows: verbal, verbal with a call home, verbal with a call home, and referral. EACH ONE COMES WITH A CALL HOME except the first verbal warning.

**Remind Text-Alerts**

Mr. Rizzo maintains a text message alert account called REMIND. This program/app can be used by students and parents to receive daily and weekly text message updates on classroom assignments and upcoming due dates. If you would like to be a part of this FREE service, please visit the Canvas site for more details, or email me directly for instructions.

**Mr. Rizzo reserves the right to make changes to the syllabus as necessary throughout the semester**

**Communication**

I want to be very accessible to both you and your child, and with your assistance, we can ensure your child’s best interests. Do not hesitate to email at rjrizzo@volusia.k12.fl.us. Please include your child’s first and last name in any email you send. I check my e-mail daily, and this is often the quickest way to get in touch with me. I am looking forward to getting to know both you and your child this year.