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.

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 consequences 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.

Cell Phone Policy
Cell phones are not permitted in class. Students will be expected to place their phones in their bookbag or the phone holder at the front of the classroom. If you have a family emergency, please contact the front desk. Students that break this rule will receive the appropriate disciplinary consequence (explained above).

Academic Integrity
Academic integrity is the commitment to and demonstration of honest and moral behavior in an academic setting. This includes avoidance of cheating or plagiarism. What students submit must be their own work. They may not copy other’s work or Google responses. The 1st consequence: a warning, one more opportunity to complete the assignment correctly, call home. The 2nd consequence: 0% for the assignment, call home, report to counselor. The 3rd consequence: 0% for the assignment, call home, report to counselor, disciplinary action (referral)

Late Assignments
Students are given plenty of time to complete assignments and are expected to turn them in on their due date. If an unusual circumstance prevents your child from doing his homework, please send an email or a note with your child. Your child is responsible for getting and making up missed assignments. Assignments are a letter grade off for each day it is late, with the lowest being a 70. Students have two weeks to turn in work late; 2nd semester students have one week to turn assignments in late.

Assessment & Grades
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%.

Remind Text-Alerts
Mr. Rizzo maintains a text message alert account called REMIND. This program/app can be used by students and parents to send and receive text message updates on classroom information. 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.

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 or call 386-822-6909 x76699. Please include your child’s first and last name in any message 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.

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