

# Stiltner

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Science Hill High School, 1509 John Exum Parkway; Johnson City, TN 37604

January 6, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

An exciting new session has begun at Science Hill High School, and I am delighted to have your child in class. I have high expectations for my students and will make every effort to help him or her succeed. English, as I am sure you know, is a required credit to graduate. Therefore, passing this class is crucial to your student's graduation; I urge you to encourage and monitor your student's progress. I will do my best to notify you if your child is failing; however, please keep a watch on PowerSchool so you may see consist updates, and email me if you have questions regarding progress at [stiltnerm@jcschools.org](mailto:stiltnerm@jcschools.org). Moreover, I maintain a webpage devoted to this class. It can be viewed at [www.mastiltner.weebly.com](http://www.mastiltner.weebly.com). The Weebly page contains a variety of information for students and is updated regularly or as needed. Students and parents may access the page anytime for information on the units of study we cover throughout the session.

In order for all students to have equal opportunities to learn, a few rules are necessary. I have covered these with your student but feel you should know them as well. My class rules are as follows: be prepared with proper material –assignments, paper, pen/pencil; be responsible for one's own work, personal property, and behavior; be fair to others and the teacher; be courteous to those around them; and be kind and respectful to others. In addition, students will follow all rules and procedures set forth by the school and school system. If an infraction of these rules occurs, consequences set by the school and school system will result.

My goal is to teach students how to read and comprehend literature, as well as write and communicate well. Because the State of Tennessee recognizes the TNReady State Standards which establish a more rigorous and student driven culture for the classroom, students will be reading more complex texts and conducting more writing assignments and classroom discussion to assess these standards. In order to accomplish this goal, it is necessary for my students to write and actively participate in class. Although writing is a difficult task for many students, I will do everything I can to make it painless. However, when working on out of class assignments I expect students to conduct their own work and not depend on their friends or Internet provider. Plagiarism is a serious offense and will be treated as such in my class. Students will receive a zero on the assignment and will not be given the opportunity to rewrite the assignment. This may cause the student to fail a term or session. In addition, students who plagiarize will not be given out of class writing assignments; therefore, all writing assignments will be conducted in my presence either before or after school. The consequences of plagiarism will be in effect for the required research paper as well.

Additionally, I feel it is important you know and understand my homework and classroom policies. They were provided to your student so they should be attached. My goal is to know you have seen and understand the policy. I have already discussed this plan with your child; however, I would appreciate it if you would review this together, initial, sign, and return the policy form. Please do not hesitate to email me; progress reports and conferences may be requested at any point in the semester. I am available at 423-232-2190 or [stiltnerm@jcschools.org](mailto:stiltnerm@jcschools.org). Thank you for your support; I am looking forward to a wonderful semester.

Sincerely,  
Mitziann Stiltner  
English Teacher  
[stiltnerm@jcschools.org](mailto:stiltnerm@jcschools.org)