Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students:

Welcome to the 2016-2017 academic year at Pittsburgh Obama! My name is Ms. Cornibe-Werner and I am excited to have you as a member of my 8th grade Language and Literature class. The following information will assist you in having a successful year.

**Course Overview**
The Pittsburgh Public Schools Core Curriculum for 8th grade consists of nine units of varying lengths. Each unit, led by an overarching essential question, focuses on three or four major concepts, and is connected to the Common Core.

**International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP)**
As 8th graders, we are in Year 3 of the MYP, a framework that encourages students to make connections between their studies and the real world. The MYP consists of eight content areas: Language Acquisition, Language and Literature, Individuals and Societies, Sciences, Mathematics, Arts, Health and Physical Education, and Design.

The aims of MYP Language and Literature are to encourage and enable students to:

- Use language as a vehicle for thought, creativity, reflection, learning, self-expression, analysis, and social interaction.
- Develop the skills involved in listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing, and presenting in a variety of contexts.
- Develop critical, creative and personal approaches to studying and analyzing literary and non-literary texts.
- Engage with text from different historical periods and a variety of cultures.
- Explore and analyze aspects of personal, host, and other cultures through literary and non-literary texts.
- Explore language through a variety of media and modes.
- Develop a lifelong interest in reading.
- Apply linguistic and literary concepts and skills in a variety of authentic contexts.

**Objectives/Assessment Criteria:**

- Objective A: Analyzing
- Objective B: Organizing
- Objective C: Producing Text
- Objective D: Using language

**Evaluation, Assessment, and Grading**
The Pittsburgh Public Schools grading scale will be used. Students will receive grades in one of the following categories: Classwork (25%), Assessments (25%), Writing (20%), Participation (15%), and Homework (10%).

Assignments should be submitted on time. If you are absent from class, it is your responsibility to obtain missed work. Per school policy, there are no opportunities for extra credit. Homework will be
Assigned consistently. Homework may look different from day to day as each assignment will not consist of written practice. Late homework will be accepted the following school day for 50% of the total. After that, it is a zero. Late projects will be marked 10% for every day late. No late work will be accepted during the final week of any report period.

Citizenship refers to work habits and class demeanor. Students will be evaluated daily, according to the citizenship rubric and using the stand scale: O=Outstanding, S=Satisfactory, and U=Unsatisfactory.

Materials Needed Every Day
- School-issued agenda book
- Writing utensil (blue/black pen or sharpened pencil)
- Language and Literature 1.5-inch binder
- Binder dividers
- Loose leaf paper
- Completed assignment
- Independent novel

Procedures and Expectations
- Students are expected to follow all school and classroom rules. When expectations are not met, the following consequences may be applied in part or whole: warning, parent/guardian contact, parent/guardian/student/teacher conference, and administrative referral.
- Students must arrive on time and prepared to class. Per school policy, the 4th tardy will result in an administrative referral.
- Hallway passes will only be signed in the event of an emergency.
- Eating and drinking are not permitted in the classroom.

Contact Information
The fastest way to reach me is by email. Please do not hesitate to reach out. Please allow 24 hours to return your email or phone call, Monday-Friday. The students have been encouraged to sign up to receive Remind alerts on their phones. Remind is a free, safe, and simple messaging tool that allows me to share important updates and information with students and parents. All personal information is kept private; I will never see your phone number, nor will you see mine.

Email: scornibewerner1@pghboe.net
Phone: (412) 529-5293
Remind: Text @8g7abf to 81010

I am looking forward to our year together!

Sincerely,

Ms. Cornibe-Werner

Approved: Principal
IBMYP Year 3 Language and Literature
2016-2017 Academic Year

Please return this form to Ms. Cornibe-Werner by ____________________________.

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Students:

We have discussed, in detail, the course syllabus during class. Please read the syllabus together and keep it in the student’s binder. Once the syllabus has been read at home, please complete the information below and return to me by the above date. Please use the space below to address any concerns or comments.

A few key points to remember:

- Please feel free to contact me by email (scornibewerner1@pghboe.net) or by phone (412-529-5293).
- Together, Classwork and Participation are worth 40% of the student’s grade.
- Participation will include having the correct materials for class. Asking for permission to leave class to go to a locker because of a missing material is not acceptable.
- The Remind text-messaging app will be used consistently. If your student has a question regarding an upcoming assignment or assessment, he/she will have the ability to “text” me directly and ask.

Student Name: ________________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Name: __________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Email Address: ________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Phone Number: ________________________________________________

I prefer to be contacted by (circle): Email    Phone    Text

* If an emergency has occurred, you will be contacted by phone immediately *

I have read and understand Ms. Cornibe-Werner’s opening letter and expectations.

Student Signature: ___________________________________________ Date: ______________

Parent/Guardian Signature: ________________________________ Date: __________________

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