**Welcome to Grade 8.**

This year your child will be seeing me for Math, English and Art (Mullins Centre only).

My hope this year is to prepare your child for the challenges they will face as they move on to Secondary school.

**Math:**

There are many ways we can look at Math and different ways of solving problems. My plan is to provide you with multiple strategies to tackle questions and concepts and help you to discover methods of problem solving that work best for you. I have asked students to come with dividers for their Math binder in the hopes that this organizational tool will help them structure their notebooks in a way where everything is easy to find. During a typical lesson I will model how to structure a solution and how to explain your thinking clearly so that when the students go to study, they can follow their thinking. I encourage students to ask questions and make mistakes. Often the best learning comes from the questions you ask and the mistake you make. This will also give me an opportunity to help your child move forward. I am also available for extra help; all your child needs to do is ask.

**English:**

We will be focusing on a number of topics this term. We will be looking at main idea, summary and making inferences in our reading; writing personal narratives and short stories; and improving our pacing, clarity, tone and volume when public speaking. Students are asked to have a novel with them for each class; however, I will arrange library time here at school so students have an opportunity to select a novel for reading.

**Art (Mullins Centre):**

We will be looking at a variety of art forms and mediums. Having colouring pencils/markers will be helpful, so the student doesn’t have to worry about finding the exact match when they come back the following week to class. I will also be available at lunch should a student need to get caught up on their assignment.

**Expectations:**

1. **Be Prepared:** Here are the basics your child will need for their classes: paper (lined/graph (math), calculator, pencils/pens, binder, novel)
2. **Take notes:** Keeping up to date and complete notes will make your child’s life so much easier when it comes to studying for a test. If a student misses a class they will need to get caught up on the notes and work.
3. **Make mistakes:** (I know I already mentioned this, but it is worth repeating.) Let’s face it; we are all going to make some mistakes this year and that’s okay. Making mistakes is one of the most important parts of learning. I honestly want you to make mistakes so you have the chance to learn from them. Circle questions you struggled with (at home) so we can discuss them in class the next day.
4. **Ask questions and come for help:** I am here to help you. If you run into trouble let me know. I can provide extra help, but I can’t read minds. Don’t be afraid to ask questions and please come and see me for extra help.
5. **Complete assigned work:** You will have some homework on a regular basis (in Math). I usually give class time to complete the work and ask questions, but it won’t always get completed in class.
6. **Website:** Take advantage of the work posted on my classroom website to keep you up-to-date on work. **www.mrshillsdon.weebly.com**
7. **Open mind:** Come to class with an open mind and a willingness to learn. I’m looking forward to a great year with all my students.

Mrs. Hillsdon