FOUNDATIONS OF LEADERSHIP

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Overview:

Foundations of Leadership is designed to enhance and support the learning experiences of incoming 9th grade students to become knowledgeable, responsible, and caring students as they transition into high school. The class will honor that transition by reflecting on what has brought you to this point, address the many concerns that arise during this transition and prepare you for what is to come so that you may have a successful high school experience leading to graduation in four years.

Students will be active partners in creating an environment that promotes strategies for academic success and excellence, and also integrates social and emotional learning. Activities will include storytelling, group discussion, self-awareness, self-reflection, artistic expression, play, and cooperative and small group learning.

The curriculum is designed to emphasize the acquisition and utilization of leadership traits and qualities as well as literacy skills (reading, writing, listening, speaking, and critical viewing).

Students will build and reinforce life skills and social competencies that include effective communication skills, goal articulation and role intellection, critical thinking, collaborative problem solving and decision making, organizational skills, stress management, intrapersonal/interpersonal skills, appreciating cultural diversity and cultural contributions, and a positive contributory service.

Participants in *Foundations of Leadership* will be strongly encouraged to participate in one school-related activity sometime during the school year and complete a personal service project with documentation in the last nine weeks. Participants will design a final analysis project that synthesizes their personal reflections, personal growth, and learning from this course.

Rights and Responsibilities:

As members of this group, you are instantly part of something special. This is not like other courses, and it is important to recognize that right off. What follows are a few general ideas to keep in mind. We will talk more as a group about specifics we may want to add or delete.

- Approach each day with the intention of doing the work (listening with your full attention, being present mentally and emotionally, and honoring the work of others).
- Practice courtesy and care of others.
- Be prompt - in your seat when the bell rings (before and after).
- Be prepared by having assignments completed on time and necessary materials in hand. (Journal, pens/pencils etc.)
- Provide an atmosphere of respect and dignity towards each person.

Curriculum Materials:

A variety of contemporary literature and non-fiction material will be used in the course including poetry and short stories. Additional reference material may include *7 Habits of Effective Teens* by Sean Covey, *Student Leadership Guide* by Brendon Burchard, *Habitudes,* Acquired Core Skills, and the *Teen Ink* series.

Attendance and Citizenship:

Because this is a participatory, interactive course, your presence benefits not only you, but the rest of us as well. It is essential to be in attendance each day as there is no substitute for what is missed in class discussions, interactions, and instruction.
A separate citizenship grade will be assigned based on school-class agreements and failure to follow school-class agreements may result in loss of points.
Students who miss school for any reason will be required to make up tests, quizzes, assignments, or activities. It is your responsibility to find out what was missed and complete the work in a timely manner (2 days) unless arrangements have been made with the instructor. Assignments turned in after the deadlines are reduced to 80% (up to two days). No acceptance of work three days beyond the deadline.

Supplies:

Pens/Paper/Pencil

Evaluation/Grading:

Your overall grade in this course will be based on citizenship, class assignments, journals, projects, and your culminating final analysis/exhibition. It is the student's responsibility to complete the assignments by the given due date. Points will be deducted for late work. Plagiarized work will result in a "0" point value and the work will be redone for half credit. The Grading Scale to be followed will be that which is published in the Lexington High School student handbook. Your grade in this class will be assigned as follows:

Quarterly Category Grading:

35% Citizenship (based on school-wide/class agreements, daily engagement)
25% Major Assessments (projects, tests)
40% Daily Assignments (daily work, notes, homework, vocabulary)

Semester Grade will be based on the following criteria:

Quarter 1 = 45% / Quarter 2 = 45% / *1st Semester Exam = 10% Quarter 3 = 45% / Quarter 4 = 45% / *2nd Semester Exam = 10%
*Please note: the final semester exam (both semesters) will count for 10% of the final semester grade each semester – as per LHS policy.

Student Signature_____
Parent/Guardian Signature_____ Date_____