

IN A MILLION WORDS OR LESS...

Dear Parents of 8th Grade Scholars,

Today, YOU are getting the homework assignment!

Welcome to 8th Grade! I realize that this week is a nightmare of paperwork for you. There's a lot of signing to be done! I hope, however, that this exercise will be a welcome reprieve.

In a perfect world, you and I would be able to sit down together at the beginning of every year, over a steaming mocha latte', and talk indefinitely about your child. Since that most likely won't happen, I would like for you to take a few minutes and **tell me, in a million words or less, about your 8th Grade Scholar.**

It takes me a great deal of time to get to know your child. This activity gives you a chance to tell me what you think I should know about your child from the get-go. Share with me what you know about your 8th grader, his/her talents, hobbies, hopes, strengths, weaknesses, and his/her life in general. Brag!

Don't worry about spelling or punctuation. I will not share your comments with any other person, including other teachers, unless you tell me in your message that I can. I am very excited about having this preview into your child's life and personality, and about reading the wonderful, fascinating things you have to say.

Your scholar is in for a great experience this year. The curriculum is rigorous, but very doable. My central theme for this year is "Begin With the End in Mind." Our "end" here in the 8th grade tends to be those few days in March (I've vowed not to mention them by name yet), but I like to look beyond that. My goal is to have your scholar well-prepared for 9th grade and beyond, having learned not just school-survival skills, but life-survival skills as well. That is the end *I* have in mind.

I want you to take your time with this, but there must be a deadline. Please get "*In A Million Words or Less...*" to me no later than _____. You can either send it with your scholar, or email it to me at sandhed@mansfieldisd.org

With the End in Mind.

Heather D. Sanders