

8th Grade Portfolio Parent Letter

Dear Families,

Your student will be working on a required portfolio during this half of the school year. This portfolio is created in language arts classes, with social studies, and other classes also contributing projects. This “identity book” will contain the following: family tree, newspaper on the day they were born, dedication page, photos, awards, drawings, and much, much more.

One of the chapters requires that a parent, or grandparent, or older sibling write a short biographical sketch of the student’s life due in April. This may be in the form of a letter to your teen and can cover any advice, memories, or insight that the adult wishes to share. This gives the student another point of view and adds an interesting, sometimes tearful, chapter to the book. For most of the students, this chapter has become a cherished keepsake.

We will be providing the binders, page protectors, color paper, and creative decorating supplies for each student. We are asking for a donation of \$10.00 per student to help cover these expenses. Please send this money in with your student to purchase these items by **Friday, February 17, 2017**. As always if this presents a financial hardship, please let me know. Please also help your child start gathering materials for the project to send with him/her to school.

In order to help with the last minute rush, be gathering photos and mementoes throughout the school year to include in the portfolio. This would include awards, sports/hobby photos, letters, great papers, etc. The pictures should reflect their whole life, their pets, their favorite vacations, their friends, etc. Most students put about 30-50 pictures into their portfolio, but this is not a set amount. Any number of pictures will be acceptable. As always, please let me know if this is not possible.

Your child is also **expected to complete 5 hours of community service** by the middle of April. The winter lends itself to many opportunities such as shoveling driveways for an elderly couple, babysitting for a struggling family, etc. Thank you for your cooperation and support of this project! Also please feel free to email with any questions or concerns you may have.

The portfolio due date is **May 17/18, 2017 and Portfolio Night will be May 25 from 5-7**. I hope to see you all there! If you have any questions regarding this project, please let me know.

Sincerely,
Brandy Davis
bdavis@pinckneypirates.org