

*Dear 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Study Skills,*

*Remember, at the beginning of the year we had a discussion about behaviors and control. I said that if you displayed appropriate, PRIDE behaviors than you would get more control over the class, but if your behaviors weren't appropriate than I would have to take back the control.*

*I was hoping that by allowing you to have control over the following, that you would take ownership and PRIDE in this class:*

- choose your own seats and book*
- watch Channel 1 News with no accountability assignments*
- choose class jobs*
- being flexible with due dates & deadlines*
- have free access to pencils & paper*
- have control over windows & lights*

*I built in a PRIDE award system to reward you for PRIDE behaviors by giving you PRIDE points as part of your grades, giving you Bear PRIDE Tickets, and giving you the ability to earn a PRIDE Party day.*

*However, for the majority of you, PRIDE behaviors seem to elude you.*

*In fairness, I have tried a variety of different things to get you back on track including:*

- having Mrs. Sheldon speak with you as a group*
- I've had Mrs. Sheldon, Mr. Reed, and Mrs. Somsel speak with some of you individually.*
- I've tried showing motivational videos*
- I've brought in books from my personal home library to get some of you interested in reading.*

*But, still PRIDE behaviors are lacking.*

*Due to this unfortunate lack of PRIDE from a majority of you, I am being forced to take back some of the control over this class:*

- 1. You will have a seating chart, and you will not be able to move/switch chairs in this class*
- 2. There will no longer be choice job assignments; I will select students displaying PRIDE to do jobs*
- 3. You must ask for a pencil*
- 4. You must get permission to open windows, adjust lights, move chairs, and/or work with a partner*
- 5. You will be required to do Study Skills classwork first and then if you have time you may do homework for other classes*
- 6. I will continue to track PRIDE infractions, but I will be more transparent by putting names on the board with the specific PRIDE infraction*

7. *Any student who uses up all of their PRIDE points will be required to leave the classroom*

*As a warning, if PRIDE behaviors continue to elude the majority of you, then I will take the next steps to implement the following actions:*

1. *No listening to music*
2. *Require accountability assignments for Channel News*
3. *Assigned DEAR reading & journaling*
4. *Exit assignment tickets*
5. *Contact with conference calls to parents for students not displaying PRIDE behaviors*

*I am sorry for those of you who are always displaying PRIDE. Be confident in knowing that your behaviors are noticed and appreciated. For your benefit I will also implement the following for students who are doing PRIDE:*

- *Continue to give 5 PRIDE tickets for a week of PRIDE*
- *Randomly give more PRIDE tickets during class time*
- *Excuse you from accountability assignments*
- *Allow you to sit next to a friend and/or even work in the hall*
- *Allow you to earn PRIDE Time*