Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Teacher\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Louisville Middle School

Eighth Grade

CLAWS Portfolio

School Year: 2015-2016



**KEEP IN A SAFE PLACE!**

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A message to the Student and Parents/Guardians:

The CLAWS Portfolio Program at Louisville Middle School

Recognizing students for demonstrating good character, good leadership, a great attitude, a strong work ethic, and doing helpful service for others is an integral part of a well-rounded educational experience at Louisville Middle School. Eighth grade students are maturing in so many ways, not only academically, but socially as well. The teachers at LMS strongly believe in our students as responsible future leaders, policy-makers, professionals, care-givers, educators, coaches, health care workers, inventors, authors, the list goes on! We know that every student sitting in our classrooms has a wider experience than simply what occurs in the classroom in a single subject on a daily basis.

This portfolio is meant to allow you as a student to demonstrate your achievements outside of school that may not be academic in nature. Rather, these accomplishments show another side of you – how great you are and how your positive actions have a meaningful purpose to others in your family and community.

Once the portfolio is submitted, the eighth grade teachers review them in order to select award recipients for the areas of character, leadership, attitude, work ethic, and service. The awards are presented at the awards assemblies at the conclusion of each quarter of the academic year. Good luck with your portfolio!

**Rules**

*Rule #1*: Every student is encouraged to turn in their portfolio – whether completed or not - on each of the four due dates. The due dates fall on the eighth week of each academic quarter.

*Rule #2*: Students may work on ANY part of the CLAWS program for any given due date.

*Rule #3*: Students may submit more than one part of the CLAWS program for any given due date.

*Rule #4*: Students are NOT penalized if they were unable to complete a part of the CLAWS program for a given due date. However, students ARE penalized for not turning the portfolio in (you lost it or you fail to turn it in for another reason). So, turn it in regardless if you finished something or not! Penalties for not turning in the portfolio include having privileges taken away such as Fun Friday, Movie Day, or not being able to participate in a fun-geared activity.

*Rule #5*: Parents/Guardians or a responsible adult(s) who supervised the activity must sign your submission in order for it to be valid to receive an award.

Return Policy:

Your portfolio will be returned each nine weeks along with any pictures you included.

Your portfolio will be given back at the end of the school year along with any pictures you included.

**Due Dates**

Due Date 1: Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Due Date 2: Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Due Date 3: Tuesday, March 8, 2016

Due Date 4: Tuesday, May 17, 2016

CHARACTER

What have you done to build character traits like honesty, compassion, and determination? You might have joined a project in your community that helps others, such as a soup kitchen, a food pantry, or a home building project. How did this build your character?

Perhaps you have helped an opponent on the other team when they were injured. Perhaps you prevented someone from becoming hurt. How did this build your character?

How does doing chores and being responsible at home build your character? Are you reliable?

If an elderly neighbor needed help on something around the house, do you have the character to help them? Perhaps you have helped a neighbor do something that would ordinarily be very difficult for them. How does helping build your compassion toward someone else develop character?

Have you worked with disadvantaged adults or have you taught younger children in church? If so, reflect on how this has built your character and your ability to care for others.

Have you participated in fostering a needy pet through an animal rescue agency? How did this build your character and strengthen your determination?

Consider some of the activities you have done that have built your character. Use the form on the next page to describe the activity and have it signed by a responsible adult who is familiar with the activity, or by your parent(s)/guardian(s).

***My CHARACTER Activity***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Student’s Name |  |
| Name of Activity |  |
| Description of Activity:  What did you do? When did you do it? Did it occur once or did you complete something over a period of time? Did you volunteer for something or did you engage in this activity on your own?  (Add a sheet of paper if you need more room.) |  |
| How did the activity build your character? Use specific examples of how it made you care more, made you more determined, how it made you more honest, or how it increased your compassion for something or someone.  (Add a sheet of paper if you need more room.) |  |
| Signature of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) or Adult in Charge | Name (printed)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

You may include pictures.

LEADERSHIP

Leadership skills are vital in many situations. In the high school social setting, you may need to step up to stand for something that is the right thing to do, and others will follow in your footsteps. What are some things you are doing that are building your leadership skills?

Lessons in leadership impact your future. What activities outside of the academic classroom have taught you valuable lessons in how to be a leader? Perhaps you lead a group of peers in a church project. Maybe you participated in a camp where you were in charge of leading a group. Maybe you are taking a leadership role to guide a younger sibling through similar experiences you had when you were their age. Are you a good and effective leader? How do you know?

Every successful leader must work with two elements: 1) other people and 2) the task that needs to be accomplished. Sometimes leaders consult with followers in order to see if the goal in mind needs modified on the way to accomplishment. In this way, the leader is providing the direction, not dictating the outcome. A person’s qualities, skills, and actions – rather than a job title – is what allows them to emerge as a recognized leader among their peers or community.

You are building your leadership skills now whether you realize it or not. Leadership is, indeed, an interaction with others. What sets a leader apart is the ability to have a vision and make that vision possible by guiding others towards its completion. How would followers rate their leader who has guided them toward a goal? If you have been in a leadership role, do you think your followers would rate your effectiveness well?

Consider some of the activities you have done that have built your leadership skills. Use the form on the next page to describe the activity and have it signed by a responsible adult who is familiar with the activity, or by your parent(s)/guardian(s).

***My LEADERSHIP Activity***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Student’s Name |  |
| Name of Activity |  |
| Description of Activity:  What did you do? When did you do it? Did it occur once or did you complete something over a period of time? Did you volunteer for something or did you engage in this activity on your own?  (Add a sheet of paper if you need more room.) |  |
| How did the activity build your leadership? Use specific examples of how the experience allowed you to accomplish a goal while maintaining the respect of your followers.  (Add a sheet of paper if you need more room.) |  |
| Signature of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) or Adult in Charge | Name (printed)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

You may include pictures.

ATTITUDE

Does your good attitude have wide latitude? If you’re always looking at the brighter side of things and encouraging others, we’d like to hear about it!

Attitude conveys so much as you go about your day. A good and friendly attitude can spread through a room and make everyone feel comfortable. A good attitude says you have tolerance for a wide variety of actions and that you can always bring things back to the positive.

A “can-do” attitude can be helpful when a project has to be done; you have the attitude to keep plugging away at something and others are encouraged by it. Have you ever been part of a team that has just realized it could lose a difficult game, but because of your strong faith in the team, you pulled it all together and won the game? Sometimes you can display an attitude of encouragement, and it will affect others around you in order to achieve a difficult goal.

The same positive quality in your attitude can also result in personal growth. Maybe you dreaded following through on your chores one day, but you kept a good attitude and the self-encouragement allowed you to accomplish it all – and you felt great about it as a result. Even the adults gave you praise and maybe even a reward for not giving up. A great attitude can sometimes simply be self-rewarding!

Consider some of the activities you have done where you have maintained a good attitude. It could be something you accomplished by yourself or as part of a team. Use the form on the next page to describe the activity and have it signed by a responsible adult who is familiar with the activity, or by your parent(s)/guardian(s).

In addition, **you may have an adult write about an activity** where they witnessed a great attitude shining brightly in everything you did. Your teachers would love to read about it!

***My ATTITUDE Activity***

***\*Student OR Adult may fill this out\****

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Student’s Name |  |
| Name of Activity |  |
| Description of Activity:  What did you do? When did you do it? Did it occur once or did you complete something over a period of time?  (Add a sheet of paper if you need more room.) |  |
| How did the activity demonstrate a good attitude? Use specific examples of how the experience showed how you maintained a positive attitude no matter what you had to face.  (Add a sheet of paper if you need more room.) |  |
| Signature of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) or Adult in Charge | Name (printed)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

You may include pictures.

WORK ETHIC

Are you a diligent worker who perseveres to the end? Do you insist on working until a task is finished? Do you follow through on your ideas? If they don’t work, do you adjust to make it work?

You may need to pace yourself so that you can get proper sleep, exercise, and eat correctly, yet you are an individual who will accomplish what you set your mind to. If so, many people may describe you as a determined person and a hard worker.

Tenacity toward work is a great skill to have for life in general. Of course, hard work in school will pay off in many academic ways. Are there other ways in your nonacademic life that involve hard work?

Maybe you practice a lot to perfect your skills in a certain sport so that it can be beneficial to your team as a whole. Maybe you live on a farm and you are relied upon to take care of critical parts of the farm’s operation. Maybe you are a young “apprentice” for an adult at a skilled job where your work is critical for a job well done. Perhaps you find yourself incredibly musically talented and you diligently practice your voice or instrument skills. Maybe you have developed a strong devotion to a cause or to your church and you continue to work for this cause. You might have worked diligently to earn a badge for boy scouts or girl scouts.

Your teachers would love to read about the amazing ways you work hard outside of the classroom setting. Consider some of the activities you have done where you have a good work ethic. Use the form on the next page to describe the activity and have it signed by a responsible adult who is familiar with the activity, or by your parent(s)/guardian(s).

***My WORK ETHIC Activity***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Student’s Name |  |
| Name of Activity |  |
| Description of Activity:  What activity do you do that requires a strong work ethic? Why do you feel your work ethic is important to this activity?  (Add a sheet of paper if you need more room.) |  |
| Make a list of all the things you have to work on. Explain how it’s not really hard work as much as a “labor of love.”  (Add a sheet of paper if you need more room.) |  |
| Signature of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) or Adult in Charge | Name (printed)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

You may include pictures.

SERVICE

Serving others or serving a cause demonstrates selflessness in a person. What this means is that you are not thinking about yourself. Instead, you are giving of yourself to help another.

Youth today are considered service learners. In your life outside of the classroom, you can observe adults who demonstrate service to others. Programs exist for youth to become familiar with and engage in service projects. When you do a service project, you never expect to gain anything material or monetary in return. However, you may feel good about what you did because it was helpful to the overall community.

Doing community service is charitable. Charities are larger groups who rely on the help of volunteer individuals to carry out their service missions. A single mission may only be possible with the service of many individuals, each giving something small. All of the small service contributions add up to a greater positive result for the community.

Have you done volunteer work where you have contributed to the service of an overall mission or to another individual? Perhaps you’ve served side by side with other people in a soup kitchen. Perhaps you signed up for an essential role during an important church service or dedication. Maybe you gave up a Saturday to wash cars for a charitable organization. Maybe you helped raise funds for an ill patient who needs help with medical care. You were selfless in doing such service. Your teachers are thrilled to read about this aspect of your life!

Use the form on the next page to describe a service activity and have it signed by a responsible adult who is familiar with the activity, or by your parent(s)/guardian(s).

***My SERVICE Activity***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Student’s Name |  |
| Name of Activity |  |
| Description of Activity:  For what charity or cause did you serve? What did you do? When did you do it? Did it occur once or did you complete something over a period of time?  (Add a sheet of paper if you need more room.) |  |
| How did the activity make you feel? Use specific examples of how doing something selfless increased your compassion for something or someone. Would you do it again? What did you learn from the experience?  (Add a sheet of paper if you need more room.) |  |
| Signature of Parent(s)/Guardian(s) or Adult in Charge | Name (printed)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |

You may include pictures.