***Intro to Psychology***

***Mr Dixon***

***Room 304***

***617-846-5505 ext 7173***

***mdixon@winthrop.k12.ma.us***

General notes:

* This is an HONORS-level course. If you weren’t clear on that when you signed up, be clear now.
* This class has no textbook, so you’ll be taking MANY notes. In general, there’s a very clear correlation between the students who take decent notes in here and the students who earn decent grades.

Grading:

* Passing classes at WHS should not be difficult. Getting As and Bs, however, should be. I keep a total of the number of points offered in any given quarter, and then grade by percentage. DO NOT ask if you can do extra credit.
* Your midterm and final are worth one full letter grade EACH. The midterm is a comprehensive exam; the final is partly an exam, partly a project.
* Expect daily formative notes quizzes. I’ll enter them weekly (or so) in iPass. You WILL need your Chromebook to take these. ***IF YOU TAKE THEM LATE, YOU MUST EMAIL ME TO TELL ME YOU DID THEM!***
* I assign relatively little homework; this means that the homework I *do* assign is that much more important.
* Excused absences from school give you five days to make up your missed classwork. After five days, you’ve earned a zero.
* Late assignments cost ten percentage points (one full letter grade) per day.
* I’ll allow you to retake one test per quarter for a higher grade. You’ll need to do this on your own time, and you won’t be able to earn anything higher than an 89% on the retaken test. You may carry over unused retakes, but only for one quarter. I won’t allow any retakes within ONE WEEK of when grades close for the quarter.

Behavior:

* Seats are assigned for three reasons.
	+ It helps me learn your names and take attendance.
	+ Many of you get yourselves into trouble if I let you pick your own seats.
	+ It helps the school with contact tracing in the event of a positive Covid result.
* There is a theory in this building that students may eat “healthy snacks” in class. This theory is completely false. You may eat NOTHING in class, and you should be drinking nothing but water.
* DO NOT use my bathroom pass for anything except going to the bathroom.
* If you need to go “see Guidance,” you are welcome to do so on your own time. Do not use my class time to go see them. This goes double for seniors, and triple for seniors between March and June. If Guidance needs to see you, they’ll call and tell me.
* Most students, at one time or another, use vocabulary that isn’t appropriate here at school. Generally, your language should be no worse than mine; if you hear me say it, you may say it. If not, I will make sure to point it out to you. This doesn’t just refer to profanity; be careful how you refer to others. I dislike words like “retarded,” “psycho,” and “gay,” for example, when used in a negative way.

**YOUR BEHAVIOR’S IMPACT ON YOUR GRADE**

I write down your deficient behaviors on the seating chart, documenting all the things I catch you doing in class. When the time comes to enter a grade for progress reports or report cards, I may drop your grade by half a percent for each persistent behavior I see. If, over the course of the grading period, you’ve modified your behavior or improved the way you act, then I might not take any points off at all. You should feel free to come discuss your behavior with me at any point.

Contacting me:

I’m very reachable. Leave a comment in the Google Classroom. CAll me at school ext 7173. Or there’s always good old-fashioned email. Whichever you use, please remember to do the following:

* MAKE SURE you include your name in the body of the email, text, or message. You’d be shocked at how hard it is for me to figure out who’s trying to contact me.
* Do not expect an instantaneous response, especially if it’s late at night or on a weekend. The most immediate way to get ahold of me is probably via email.