### Louisa-Muscatine

### Community School District

# We Value, We Challenge, We Prepare each and every student.



September 30, 2014

To the Family of: XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX,

The transition from one school district to another can be frustrating. Because of this and the academic expectations increase, due to No Child Left Behind, we are moving from reactive to proactive when working with high school students. In looking at past data regarding failing grades, we know that students who start off failing their freshman or first year have a difficult time getting back on track to graduate with their peers.

In order to get a handle on this negative trend, we have incorporated a structured study hall incorporating a curriculum. Every freshman student and upper classmen that chose is enrolled in a study hall that is small in number and supervised by a certified staff. This allows the student a chance to study in a structured setting where knowledgeable staff can direct, guide, and encourage students to work up to their potential.

Starting the 2013-14 academic year, we established Study Skills class for a small number of freshmen and new Louisa-Muscatine students. This is based on the same expectations as the study hall plus detailed academic, life, and Iowa Core skills are covered. This class will refocus them on the importance of school and provide them with academic study skills such as time management, positive decision-making, and goal setting. Within this class period, individuals monitor their grades weekly, are aware of their progress towards their AR (Accelerated Reader) semester goal, and discuss current assignments and tests: well as, upcoming tasks. At least, three fourths of each Study Skills period is devoted to individual homework completion or test studying.

With the struggles encountered in junior high or in a different district, this one semester, one credit class has been worked into your child’s schedule and team taught by Mrs. Underbakke and Mrs. Shady. This class will be graded as a pass/fail class and will not be averaged in to determine GPA (Grade Point Average). Your child is a caring, respectful, and responsible individual. I enjoy and learn each day by being a part of this class. We encourage you to take time to discuss this class with your child. If questions and or concerns arise, please contact us for clarification.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Underbakke Mrs. Shady

*It is the policy of Louisa-Muscatine CSD not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, gender, disability, religion, age, political party affiliation, socioeconomic status, or actual or potential parental, family or marital status in its programs, activities, or employment practices as required by the Iowa Code.*

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