



# Summit Lakes Middle School Learning Outside the Classroom Belief Statement

*At Summit Lakes, we believe it is essential to give students the opportunity to extend learning outside the classroom.*

**Research supports our belief that such opportunities should be:**

- ❖ **Meaningful:** Assignments are directly tied to classroom learning.
- ❖ **Worthwhile:** Assignments result in increased learning equivalent to the time invested.
- ❖ **Beneficial:** Assignments are helpful for success today and in the future.
- ❖ **Balanced:** Assignments consider students' individual needs, outside commitments, and family lives.
- ❖ **Diverse:** Assignments are designed to practice, preview, create, and/or extend learning.

**These opportunities become most effective when:**

- ❖ **Staff Members:**
  - provide quality assignments,
  - explain clearly the purpose and instructions for assignments,
  - provide timely, appropriate feedback,
  - communicate with parents and other teachers, and
  - hold students accountable to ensure learning.
- ❖ **Students:**
  - record assignments and utilize their planbooks,
  - keep materials organized,
  - commit to a regular study time and place conducive to learning,
  - ask questions when necessary and improve self-advocacy skills,
  - practice academic integrity,
  - complete assignments with their best efforts, and
  - meet due dates.
- ❖ **Parents/Guardians:**
  - establish and support a regular study time and place conducive to learning,
  - stay well-informed and communicate with staff and students consistently,
  - encourage students to complete assignments independently and with their best efforts, and
  - assist students in learning to self-advocate.