



August 28, 2018

Dear 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents & Guardians,

Welcome to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts Class! This is going to be an exciting year, and I am looking forward to being a part of your child's academic journey.

I wanted to take a moment to familiarize you with our 7<sup>th</sup> grade language arts curriculum. Each trimester we will focus on one genre of writing and use short stories and novels to support this instruction. For the first trimester, we are focusing on narrative texts and writing. We will then move into our argumentative unit and complete the year with an informational study. Students will be given rubrics and models so there are clear expectations for each step of the writing process. At times, students may share, defend, and explain their written works in a variety of settings in order to grow as a writer.

In addition to strengthening students' writing skills, students will also be given instruction that will improve their reading skills. Students will be exposed to a variety of texts that challenge them at their reading levels. In class, both mentor texts and short stories will be used to further students' reading comprehension and serve as a model for their written pieces. Students will work with several books and stories throughout the year, but a few that may be used in class include: *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway, *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson, *Nothing but the Truth* by Avi, *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* by James L. Swanson, *The Giver* by Lois Lowry, various science fiction works by Ray Bradbury and Rod Serling, and other appropriate texts that allow students to meet Common Core State Standards. In order to further their understanding of these texts, the film of the novel with a PG rating may be shown in whole or excerpts to accompany the lesson.

To access assignments, I utilize Google Classroom. While this site requires a Rye School District account to login, I encourage you to login into our site using your child's information to view posted assignments and resources. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade team also has a static website that does not require a login. On it, you will find a team calendar where you can view upcoming assignments and field trips for all 7<sup>th</sup> grade classes (<http://rjh7.weebly.com/>). Although homework and projects will be posted online, students are still expected to record daily assignments in their agenda books, which will be provided for each student. While students may submit some assignments online, via Google Classroom, PowerSchool will be used for recording graded assignments. I encourage you to check PowerSchool weekly for updated grades and reports.

There are three categories that will comprise students' language arts grades: classwork, projects, and assessments. Students are always encouraged to resubmit assignments they feel they can improve upon. Should your child need any additional support outside of the allotted classroom time, I am certainly more than willing to provide extra support during lunch, recess, or after school. While I am always available to stay after school by appointment, I will be holding an extended after school session each Tuesday.

I assign homework on an as-needed basis. Students are encouraged to read at least 30 minutes each night. While students are not required to log their reading, the books they read at home will be used to complete independent projects. I can certainly assist students to find books that both interest and challenge them. Each month, students will be given an independent project to complete on their own time. Students are given ample time to work on these assignments, and they are designed in a manner that allows all students to choose how to showcase their individual skill sets. These projects are given to build language arts skills and support healthy work habits.

On a personal note, my husband and I are expecting our third child at the end of December. I plan to take as little leave time as possible in order to resume my professional duties. During my absence, a qualified teacher will implement the regularly planned lessons without any interruption to your child's learning. More information regarding my maternity leave will be given as we approach the date of my departure.

If you have any questions or concerns about the language arts curriculum, please do not hesitate to reach out me at [jmiller@sau50.org](mailto:jmiller@sau50.org) or at (603) 964-5591 ext. 133. I look forward to working with you this year to prepare your child to be a lifelong reader and writer.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Miller  
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