



Wonderful Parents and Students of ACA Middle School,

What an anxious and exciting time in the life of a child - middle school! As your child's English/Language Arts teacher, my goal for each student exists in my ability to engage the imaginative, logical, social, emotional, and independent realms of being. To me, the ultimate task for a teacher is rooted in the work of whetting the palate of growth through rigorous and moral experience. And through an immersion into the constructs of wisdom - collaborative process leading to individual reasoning, experiences evolve into learning.

This year your child's English class will progress through lessons in five stages: 1) literacy development, 2) reasoning through dialogue, 3) collaborative/individual project workshops, 4) project presentation assessments, 5) summative, traditional assessments.

Graded Activities:

- In-class journals/thinking maps
- Class dialogue/active listening
- Project workshops and presentations
- Traditional quizzes and tests
- Web-based grammar, literature, poetry homework exercises
- Blog-comment homework

Grading Breakdown:

- Homework (interactive grammar, flashcards, blog comments)- 10%
- Daily activities (journals/dialogues/one-day activities/quizzes)- 40 %
- Assessments (projects/tests)- 40%
- Nine Weeks' Midterm Assessment- 10%

Daily Supplies:

- Writing utensil (pen or pencil)
- Journal (composition notebook or spiral)
- Folder with pockets (to serve as grading period portfolio)

21st Century Classroom:

Much of the content I present in class is via cloud-based applications from the internet. Likewise, your child will be using the web to complete homework for my class. All homework (interactive grammar, flashcards, and blogs) is accessible through my personal, teacher website:

www.mrherrsherald.weebly.com. Please contact me if completing the web-based homework is an issue. Also, as opportunities arise in class for students to move ahead, technology devices such as smart phones, laptops, and tablets may be used for literacy practice and research.

Sincerely,

Jeff Herr- 7th & 8th ELA

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***Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Permission Slip**

If you foresee allowing your child to use his or her own smart phone, laptop, or tablet to work ahead in a highly-monitored way during specified class times, please sign, date, and detach.

BYOD Permission

Student name (please print): _____

Parent name/signature:

_____ / _____

Date: _____