

September 3, 2014

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to 7th grade Block! My name is Marie Perez and I will be your child's Reading and Language Arts teacher for 7th grade. Evergreen is an award-winning school because we want the best for each student, hold every student accountable, and have high expectations of students; and you will see that I mirror the same in my classroom.

This year, we have a new and highly rigorous curriculum! Springboard is a curriculum that supports high expectations and active participation for all students as they develop and enhance their skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening, and media literacy.

At the beginning of the school year there are always so many papers to read and fill out. Please read and keep for reference the following information regarding my class. **Only the last page of this packet needs to be returned.**

School Supplies

From the supply list you received during the summer, students are required to have the following materials for block class each and every day:

- 2 Composition Notebooks- these will serve as your daily writing journal and as a vocab notebook
- #2 pencils
- Colored Pencils
- Highlighters (two colors)
- Correcting Pen
- Notebook Paper
- 2 Dividers in your binder for block

To share:

- 1 box of Kleenex for this class

Please have all materials in class by Friday, September 6th. Let me know if you have difficulties obtaining these necessary materials.

Classroom & Student Expectations

Seventh grade students are unique academically and socially. Each student will bring special attributes to the classroom that will be accepted and honored. Working together with different abilities, attitudes, and expectations takes patience and perseverance. It also requires that each student be a responsible citizen in our class.

Each and every day, students are to follow these expectations to ensure that our class runs in a safe and productive manner.

- Be in your seat and prepared with materials when the bell rings
- Respect self, others, and the classroom at all times
- Listen to and follow instructions
- Apply your best effort and work to your full potential at all times

Classwork & Homework Expectations

All classwork and homework is required in order to be successful in this class. Assessments will make up 70% of your grade, while classwork and homework will make up the remaining 30%. All work must not only be completed, but must meet standards/expectations and given requirements to be accepted.

In this class we have three regular homework assignments. Please note that during some units and projects there will be other ADDITIONAL homework assigned. Homework is posted on my front whiteboard each morning. Students are given time in class to write the homework into their agenda. **Please check student agendas for information regarding homework and classroom activities.**

Homework Assignment Descriptions:

Writer's Notebook (WrNB): Monday-Thursday nights

Writer's notebooks are used to increase fluency of writing, practice various forms of writing, and to practice various concepts and skills related to writing.

Students must follow the prompt and directions completely (ex: 7-8 sentences per paragraph, # of paragraphs, format, genre, etc.)

- Monday - Students choose their own topic and form of writing
- Tuesday through Thursday - Teacher generates topic and form of writing

Accelerated Reader (AR) & Reading Bookmarks: Nightly

AR is used to increase independent reading for students. This year every 7th grader will have an AR goal of at least 60 points per semester. If your child receives reading support in a resource class or Read 180, those points will also count towards his/her AR goal. Our major objective is to get every student to read and finish books regularly. Each trimester, AR points will count as a 100 point assessment in reading.

To meet your AR goal you need to:

- Read at least 30 minutes **outside** of class daily
- Record reading times and pages read on your bookmark

Vocabulary Development: Nightly

Students will learn new vocabulary words daily. Our Visual Vocabulary program is based on a mnemonic system designed for learning new words that are aligned with the SAT. Students should study their words in preparation for biweekly exams.

Study Clubs/After School Help: Students will be able to use my room on Thursday, from 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m., to complete homework or receive additional help on block work. If your student falls behind, I will assign Study Club. Students can make appointments with me if I have notice and am available.

Language Arts Outcomes:

- **To make connections among texts and to oneself**
- **To explore the role of personal voice in writing**
- **To analyze genres and their organizational structures**
- **To use the writing process to prepare drafts for publication**
- **To understand how our lives are affected by persuasion**
- **To identify and analyze persuasive techniques, appeals, language, and images in print and nonprint texts**
- **To create persuasive advertisements and to write persuasive letters to the editor**

Thank you for reading this information completely and carefully. I am available for questions, comments, and/or concerns. Please email or call and I will get back to you quickly. I am looking forward to a fun and successful school year. **Please return the attached page by Monday, September 8th.**

I look forward to meeting each of you on Curriculum Night.

Sincerely,

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