

Interested in helping your son/daughter be more successful in English?

If you notice your son/daughter is frequently missing assignments and/or telling you he/she has no homework to complete, my website is the place to start. Here you can visit the Language Arts page and see assignments listed for **the entire week**. Typically one week in advance. The information here will include what homework may be due and links to important papers. Tests, quizzes, and projects are always announced in advance. **There are always books to be read or quizzes approaching!**

In addition, your son/daughter's grade will be updated often. Work completed between grade postings will not show until grades are sent for the next grade posting. As your child is a young adult please encourage him/her to approach me personally about any grade questions to **practice advocating for him/herself**. Then if the student has additional questions that have not been answered, I'd be happy to discuss those concerns with parents.

Lastly, you will find classroom information regarding curriculum along with classroom expectations. This information is also available in each student's classroom binder for reference. Additional items may be added throughout the year.

What If?

- ***My child seems to struggle with reading activities?*** Students should practice ACTIVE reading strategies at all times (questioning, setting a purpose, determining what is important, making connections, etc..). Encourage your child to use the annotation techniques discussed and practiced often in class. Assessments based on books or pieces read as a class are challenging but directly align with what we have done in class. Students should keep all assignments and activities completed during a unit of study to prepare for assessments.
- ***My child seems to struggle with word part/vocabulary quizzes?*** Students should study words/word parts daily and not cram prior to the quiz. Completing practice activities and flashcards completely will help students with quizzes. Following all directions on the quiz may also be something the student needs to be cautious about. If the problem persists, the student may want to accept the teacher's offer for additional study tips and assistance and may need to approach the teacher regarding this.
- ***My child seems to struggle with writing?*** When given assignments where students are expected to produce a polished piece of writing like a story or an essay, students will be taken through the writing process directed by the teacher. Students will have participated in multiple days/weeks of writing workshop. The student should go back into his/her writer's notebook and writing section in his/her binder and review notes and mentor text examples. Students should also use conferencing time during writer's workshop to receive additional assistance from the teacher.
- ***My child is not completing work on time?*** 7th graders sometimes have moments of forgetfulness and miss an assignment here or there. If it is a pattern and is impacting his/her grade, this can be a concern. Lack of work completion in 7th grade comes with the natural consequence of a low grade. It may be necessary for us to work together to monitor the work completion more closely at school and at home. Please ask your son/daughter to bring home his/her Language Arts binder to "prove" to you that work has been completed prior to due dates. This will help everyone to know that the work is completed and that grades should be improving.
- ***My child is completing all of his/her work but is still struggling with skills?*** Your son/daughter should definitely use weekly Core+ time to meet with me to get extra assistance. This may include extra study tips, review of concepts, or just affirmation that he/she is on the right track in what we are currently doing.
- ***My child does not enjoy reading?*** Encourage your son/daughter to actively seek reading materials they may be interested in. There are book recommendations throughout my classroom, on my webpage and on the library page. Another way to find a book is to listen to what other students are reading. ***Remember, your child has to practice to become a better reader!***

Communication

Since I value your partnership in the development of your child as a learner and as a young adult, I invite you to send me some information about your child that will help me to best teach him/her this year. Feel free to share any information about your child as you see fit.

I appreciate you taking the time to read information posted on my website. I look forward to meeting each of you throughout the year. Thank you for being an active participant in your child's education and trusting me to take care of them each day!

Brittany DiSalvo

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Unity

I dreamt I stood in a studio,
And watched two sculptors there.
The clay they used was a young child's mind,
And they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher—the tools she used,
Were books, music, and art.
The other, a parent—working with a guiding hand,
And a gentle loving heart.

Day after day, the teacher toiled
With a touch that was deft and sure.
While the parent labored by her side,
And polished and smoothed it o'er.

And when at last, their task was done,
They were proud of what they had wrought.
For the things they had molded into the child,
Could neither be sold nor bought.

And each agreed they would have failed
If each had worked alone,
For behind the teacher stood the school,
And behind the parent, the home.

- Author Unknown