

August 29, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Welcome to the Eighth Grade at Harris Road Middle School. It looks to be an exciting year ahead of us, and I am anxious to get started!

Our curriculum this year focuses on an in-depth study of various genres in literature. To accomplish this, we will blend class assignments with an independent reading program. This is designed to enhance reading skills as well as teach students the importance of choosing appropriate literature from the wide variety that is available. Students will be reading in class and are also expected to read at home. We will discuss in class how students can choose high interest books. Your child will have the opportunity to choose novels from a diverse school and classroom library and outside resources. The most important feature is that your child will be reading and challenging his/her thinking continuously.

In addition to our reading, we will also be writing this year, whether it is responding to literature, critiquing an author's work, or creating an original work of our own. Each student is responsible for completing all assignments *by or before the due date given*. Students will be given adequate time to complete all assignments, and it is his/her responsibility to make sure these are handed in on time. I trust that each of you will take an active role in your child's education.

I have included other information below regarding a syllabus and course information.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please feel free to email me. I am excited about this year and look forward to working with you and your child.

Hillary Jorgensen

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Mrs. Jorgensen's Syllabus and Classroom

Expectations

We are all here for the same purpose – to learn and prepare ourselves for a successful future. To accomplish this, there are a few guidelines that must be followed by all members of the class.

Classroom Rules:

To create an appropriate learning environment for all:

- Students are responsible for bringing all materials to class with them. A school supply list was handed out at open house.
- Side conversations are to be avoided when others are speaking to the class.
- Please raise your hand before leaving your seat. You may not leave your seat during class presentations.
- All opinions will be honored and respected. Everyone should feel welcomed.
- Success will be encouraged by ALL members of the class.
- Food and gum are not allowed in class. You may have a bottle of water.
- Leave the classroom in the same order that you found it; leave no evidence you were here.
- Cell phones are to be turned OFF at the start of the school day and out of sight. If a phone is seen or heard it will be confiscated by the teacher.
- Chromebooks will ONLY be used for class assignments. No games are to be played in class (unless it is an assignment). Breaking this rule will result in possible contact home, referrals, or limited use of technology in the classroom.

*NOTE: Failure to follow class rules will result in use of the school wide behavior slip policy. Any serious issues will be dealt with immediately, and you will receive a major office referral.

Transitions:

- Students must enter and exit the classroom quickly and quietly.
- Class starts when the bell rings.

- Students should be working from bell to bell, and should not stand up until the bell rings for the next class period.

Restroom and Hall Passes:

- Students will sign out before leaving the room for the restroom or for any other hall pass request using our sign out system.
- Students must always also have an actual hall pass (located on wall by door) with them in the hallways.
- Students are only allowed two passes per day for all classes.

Accessing Notes and Assignments:

- CANVAS will be our online learning system used in this class.
- All agendas, objectives, and assignments will be posted here, unless told otherwise. Please check back every day for updates and announcements on assignments.
- When paper notes are provided, please see me to receive a copy if you are absent.

Read Theory:

We will be using the application Read Theory in order to practice and improve reading comprehension skills. You will be responsible for completing FOUR Read Theory quizzes a week for a classwork grade. We will discuss this more in class.

Topics of Study:

- Readers Workshop and selection of appropriate novels
- Literary Elements
- Plot
- Fiction Reading
- Nonfiction/ Informational Reading
- Informational Writing
- Memoir Writing
- Tackling Complex Text
- Vocabulary (morphemes, prefixes, and suffixes)
- Poetry Reading and Writing

Classroom Library Rules and Procedures:

- You may go to the classroom library during homeroom, before the bell of each class, the first three minutes of independent reading time, or if you have spare time when you have completed work.
- Only TWO people are allowed at the library at once.
- Place books back where you found them.
- To check-out a book, use the binder on the shelf. Please sign it back in once you return it.
- Books may ONLY be checked out for two weeks at a time. Let me know if you need longer.
- DO NOT return checked out books to the shelf after signing them in. Please place them in the labeled return bin.
- If you lose a classroom library book, you will be responsible for paying for the book or replacing it with another copy.

Grading Scale and Policy:

Grading will be based on 100 points per assignment. The following is how many times each type of assignment will count in the gradebook.

- Classwork (x1)
- Quizzes (x2)
- Test (x3)
- Projects (x4)

Cheating and/or plagiarism will result in an immediate zero on the assignment.

90-100- A

89-80- B

79-70- C

69-60- D

59 and below- F

Communication:

- The best form of communication is through email or a CANVAS message.
- Please feel free to communicate with your teachers on a regular basis, and if there are questions, please ask for clarification.