

Literature and Language Arts  
Grade 7

September 6, 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts/Literature. I am very excited to be your child's teacher this year. I'd like to give you an overview of the year and also of my expectations and policies.

Language Arts will consist of English/Grammar and Writing. Language Arts will be every day for one period. Literature will be two days a week with me and one day a week with Ms. Tysk. She will teach the vocabulary, and those words will be the spelling words. She and I will work together in the sense that the words and activities will follow the stories and themes that I am covering in Literature. This gives 7<sup>th</sup> grade a total of 8 periods of Literature/ English a week.

Grading and Homework

Students are expected to come to class prepared by bringing his/her textbooks, binder, pen/pencil, and any homework that is due.

All assignments must be properly headed, neat, and turned in on time. Students will be allowed one late assignment each *trimester* without penalty. On any subsequent late assignment, every day the assignment is late, ten percent will be deducted from that assignment. If your child is absent, he/she should have a homework friend doing an assignment sheet, can check with a trustworthy classmate, or ask me. The grading scale is listed in the parent/student handbook. Grades will be weighted as follows:

Literature

Daily Homework 35%

Literature Tests 35%

Book Project and Test 30%

Language Arts

Daily Homework 30%

English Tests 30%

Papers 40%

If your child is having difficulty keeping up with homework, please contact me. I, in return, will contact you when there are a few late/missing assignments and will not wait until mid-trimester reports. Rubrics and due dates for papers and projects will be posted on the Middle School Language Arts' website or emailed to you.

### Required Reading

Each trimester there will be a required book. One day each week, we will read or discuss the book. For the majority of the book, your child will be responsible for reading it on his/her own time. There will be a project and test on the book at the end of the trimester. The school has enough copies of the books for the first two trimesters. (*The Giver* and *Tangerine*) In the third trimester I give students a choice of books, and you will have to purchase or borrow it. As we get closer to spring, I will explain in detail.

### Communication

If you have any concerns or questions, please call or email me. I am at school Monday-Friday from 7:25- 3:00. I will check emails at the beginning and end of my school days, but not during a class. My email address is [tray@saintroseoflima.net](mailto:tray@saintroseoflima.net).

### Writing in Cursive

At this age, many students' penmanship goes to pot after all the work that they did in the early grades learning to write. Many students argue that the computer is taking over and that they won't need to write in cursive. However, handwriting is very important in the development of perceptual skills and fine motor skills. Many kids are weak in this area due to all the computer and interactive games. Handwriting is also important in strengthening neural connections. Lastly, to date, cursive writing is still a requirement in the State of Minnesota learner's outcomes. With that being said, I will expect all homework assignments to be done in cursive, unless instructed otherwise.

Finally, I strongly believe in my students' ability to create a caring, learning environment. It is my expectation that we will have a classroom in which care, respect, and responsibility matter. If at any time this vision has been jeopardized by any individual(s), immediate action will be taken and logical consequences will be applied.

I look forward to working with you and having a good year with you and your child. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Theresa Ray

Please sign attached slip and return by Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.

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Please sign, date, and return this page of the letter by Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> to indicate that you have read and understand the information stated regarding your child's Language Arts/ Literature class.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade/Section \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_