Welcome to 7th Grade English Language Arts

Mrs. Butts Room 1089

**Academic Expectations**

 This course is designed to continue the development of the students’ skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking so that they grow as literate individuals who will be successful in their personal endeavors as well as in the school community. It is also intended to assist students in meeting New York State’s Standards for English/Language Arts in order to be successful on state exams. My personal goal is for the students to enjoy the challenge of learning to improve their reading and writing skills as well as their thinking skills.

 We will be following the Reader’s and Writer’s Workshop structure, which the students have experienced through their elementary years here at CSCS. The components of the workshops include: Teacher Read-Alouds, Mini-lessons, Independent Reading and Writing, Teacher-Student Conferencing, Accountable Talks, Partnership Reading and Conferencing, Book Clubs, Notebook Responses to Reading, and, of course, **HOMEWORK!**

**Course Expectations**

In Reader’s Workshop students will be expected to:

1. Read one book approximately every 2-3 weeks **at their own reading level**. This includes works of fiction and non-fiction throughout the school year.
2. Read independently, both during assigned class time and for homework.
3. Complete a homework reading log (the weekly reading homework will be 150 minutes or 30 minutes per night).
4. Come to class prepared with the required materials
5. Participate in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.
6. Maintain a Reader’s Notebook with book reflections, sticky notes, read-aloud notes, and mini-lessons.

In Writer’s Workshop students will be expected to:

1. Write independently, both during assigned class time and for homework.
2. Maintain a Writer’s Notebook, which will be graded periodically.
3. Complete the weekly homework requirements within the Writer’s Notebook (8 full pages per week).
4. Come to class prepared with the required materials
5. Participate in reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

**Notebooks and Supplies**

 Students will need both a Reader’s notebook and a Writer’s notebook (composition style please), sticky notes (lots!), pens, pencils, and a homework folder by **Monday, September 13th** at the latest. (We will already be working hard from the very first day ☺ ) The homework folder will be an important component of their supplies, as it will be used to keep the reading homework log safely in one place and also to transport their Independent Reading books that they have signed out of the classroom library.

 **Please note:** Students who lose or damage one of the books from the classroom library will be asked to pay the value of the book in order to replace it. If it is a hardcover book, the minimum replacement cost is $10.00.

**ELA Grading Policy**

 Students will be graded according to set marking period performance standards, which will include: class participation, preparation, homework, notebooks, conferences, all writing assignments, and book reflections.

 \*\*Homework is the most important component of our grading policy here in ELA. If a student fails to complete homework assignments regularly, their grade will be severely impacted!

**Behavior and Classroom Expectations**

 Behavior expectations, classroom library expectations, Reader’s and Writer’s Workshop expectations, and general classroom management expectations are posted throughout the classroom. Students are expected to read and follow these expectations every day. They will be discussed thoroughly during the first few weeks of school. Consequences for not following them will include (but are not limited to) warnings, loss of privileges, phone calls/emails home, lunch or after-school detentions, and referrals to either Ms. Meek or Mr. Allen.

**Absences**

 Students who are absent from class are responsible for getting all missed work and/or notes from either their reading/writing partner(s) or the teacher.

 \*\*I am not responsible for the work that you have missed. You are!

**In Conclusion**

 I am looking forward to having a wonderful school year with this group of 7th graders ☺ Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions that you might have. Email is the most convenient means of communication; however, you may also contact me using the school’s phone number: (607) 527-9800.

Sincerely,

Samantha Butts

sbutts@cscsd.org

(607) 527-9800

Homework assignment # 1 : Bring back this signed portion of your syllabus.

Together we have reviewed the 7th grade ELA information.

Date

Student’s name

Daytime phone number

\*\*Email address

Parent signature