

MRS. FICKES
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ENGLISH 7

Welcome to junior high! I am looking forward to working with your child. In my estimation, the onset of junior high marks the beginning of "independence." Open lines of communication between the teacher and the student are essential for a successful year. The majority of what a student will learn will take place in class. It is key that your child feels comfortable asking questions and in seeking clarification about assignments and grades before they leave the classroom each day. Students need to feel confident and comfortable with their role in the educational process. This will enable them to be good communicators in the school-home connection. Supporting your student at home in monitoring homework, in proof reading assignments and in gathering necessary supplies and materials for projects will be helpful this year. Beyond differentiating the curriculum, covering the state standards and in preparing students for standardized testing, the following will be promoted in class:

*a sense of community in the classroom where individuality is encouraged and group support is required.

*to provide students with tools, strategies and organizational systems to foster:

study skills, time-management, a balanced school life, team work, critical thinking skills, active class participation, pride in group and individual work and academic honesty in home, class and research assignments.

The best way to reach me is by phone or by written note. A response will be communicated within 24 hours. General class information will be on the web site. (I will notify the students when more online options are up and running).

In an effort to promote student accountability:

STUDENTS MUST COPY THE HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS IN THEIR HORNER PLANNER-before leaving class each day.

COURSE CURRICULUM:

- The study of vocabulary, grammar, and punctuation
- Essays and reports of information
- Class reading and study of one or more novels
- Independent reading of novels and biographies with written reports
- Oral presentations and brief speeches

In addition to following the California State Standards for History and Language Arts, my class will be focusing on the following:

Language arts:

Essay formats:

- Narrative
- Persuasive
- Expository
- Responses to Literature
- Summary

District Writing Rubric

District Writing Portfolios

Daily Oral Language Activities

Study of Idioms

Creative Writing

Book Writing Unit

The following text books and resources will be utilized:

LANGUAGE ARTS:

- Prentice Hall's Literature/Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes
- Prentice Hall's Writing and Grammar/Communication in Action
- * Great Source's Vocabulary for Achievement, First Course
- Novels: The Pearl by Steinbeck/

*students will be provided with a book to keep at home