



Welcome to Middle School at Saint Rose of Lima Catholic School!

I am excited to have your students in my class. Many of the most important skills that contribute to personal success are learned in ELA. Studying literature serves diverse purposes ranging from academic growth to personal development. The Middle School ELA program includes a variety of literature that offers students opportunities to grow in knowledge and respond to an array of selections. Students encounter unfamiliar places, different time-periods, and an assortment of people representing a rich mosaic of characters and their personalities. Students will learn how to be critical thinkers as we navigate through different genres of literature. Additionally, our English textbook will explore the elements and characteristics of effective writing while paralleling grammar concepts. Students will explore the structure of writing and grammar, including ideas, organization, voice, word-choice, sentence fluency, and the parts of speech.

CLASSROOM GOALS/EXPECTATIONS/HOMEWORK

An important life skill is critical thinking. My goal is to teach students how to think critically and analyze fiction and nonfiction novels. I want each student to feel safe and free to express their thoughts on and analysis of the novels we are reading. I expect that each student will come to class willing to learn and open to ideas different than their own. My goals for students are to foster their lifelong habits of reading and writing, encourage them to gain insights into themselves and others, help them develop skills in responding to various forms of literature, support their language growth, and expand their love of and understanding for reading and writing. Fostering a love for these skills will require a certain amount of homework. Each student is expected to come to class prepared by bringing his/her textbook or novel, notebook, pen/pencil, and any homework that is due. All assignments must be neat, properly headed, and submitted on time. For each late assignment, ten percent will be deducted from that assignment every day the assignment is late. If a student is having trouble keeping up with the assigned homework, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will contact you when there are a few late/missing assignments and will not wait until mid-trimester reports.

RULES/GUIDELINES

The main rule in my classroom is respect. I expect that the students treat their classmates, themselves, and me with respect. I want my classroom to be a nurturing and caring environment for everyone. To achieve that, respect must be maintained always. I believe that Saint Rose students can create a caring, learning environment. It is my expectation that we will have a classroom in which care, respect, and responsibility matter. At this age, students need to be responsible not only for their property, but their actions as well. I expect that if students ever fall short of the expectations, they will take responsibility for their actions and accept the necessary consequences.

CLASSROOM COMMUNICATIONS

Any documents you will need access to will be posted to Sycamore. This will include rubrics, homework, grades, and any other important documents that will be sent home with your children. If you have any concerns or questions, please call or e-mail me. I am at school Monday through Friday from 7:25AM to 3:00PM. If you need an immediate answer or need your child to know of a change for that day, it is best to e-mail. Phone calls will usually be returned at the end of the day.

CELEBRATIONS

I believe it is important to celebrate accomplishments and wins for all my students. When something significant happens, I welcome the students and/or parents to let me know and I will find an appropriate time for it to be shared in homeroom. In Middle School, the students celebrate birthdays during lunch. Treats are optional. Please be mindful of not sending in peanut or nut products. We ask that if you choose to send a treat, you send enough for their grade since they sit together. Summer birthdays are usually celebrated on the half birthday.

OTHER/EXPERIENCES

In Middle School, we have a lot of exciting opportunities for students. One incentive or experience in my classroom will be “free periods.” After we complete a unit, if all students have turned in their homework on time throughout the unit and passed the formal assessment, we will have a free period where students are able to pick, within reason, what we do during that class time.

Literature is an important subject that opens students’ eyes to different social issues, time periods, and characters. I look forward to guiding my students as they explore these different areas, as well as supporting the development of their writing and critical thinking skills throughout the year.

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