

September 7, 2017

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome back! My name is Ms. McGinn and I will be your child's ELA teacher this year. This is an exciting year for you and your child, because the 8th grade begins the transition to high school. Students learn how to become more responsible and parents (as well as teachers!) learn how to be more comfortable with a bit of independence. Of course, we must all remain vigilant, so that your child remains on track for completing this year successfully, and moves on to high school with the skills needed to succeed. I am confident that, as parents, you will be as supportive of their learning at home as we are here at school.

Students must arrive at school ready to learn. They need to have a restful sleep and eat a nutritious breakfast in order to be alert and engaged. They need to behave in class and complete the work that is expected each and every day. Students are expected to complete assignments, even when they are absent and they are responsible for acquiring those assignments. Homework assignments will be posted on our ELA website (<http://msmela.com>), when given. You will want to familiarize yourself with the website, as important class information is often posted there. There is a link to the site from the IS 27 website.

Additionally, students are expected to read for at least 30 minutes every day and to complete at least 25 books for the year. They are expected to submit a book log at the end of the year and the log is available on the ELA website. I would advise students to update as they read and not wait until the end of the year! Once a month students will be assigned a book review based on a specific genre. Graphic novels and comic books are not acceptable forms of reading for these assignments and will not be accepted; nor will other genres be accepted in place of the assignment. (Students have been given an instruction sheet for the book review, but it's also available on the ELA website.)

Students will be given a user name and password for the Pearson website (<https://www.pearsonrealize.com/#/>) where the electronic textbook for students is available once they log in. Some homework assignments will also be on the Pearson site, and students take all of their tests on Pearson, so those results will be available there as well. Please be sure your child can access the website and open the textbook online. Contact the site's technical support, if there is a problem opening the textbook. We occasionally use other websites for assignments and students will be given user names and passwords for any sites used for assignments.

Please be sure to register on Pupil Path. It is a good way to stay current with your child's progress and it is the primary method I use for parental contact. Please let me know if you are not registered and need the information to do so.

Assignments are expected to be submitted on time! This will ensure that I have an opportunity to review the work carefully and that students don't fall behind.

Students must be prepared with supplies and materials each and every day. The following list of supplies will be needed immediately:

1. A binder with loose leaf.
2. Pens with blue or black ink (students must complete writing assignments in ink!)
3. Sharpened Pencils
4. 2 folders (these will be left in class)
5. Tissues (These will be shared, until they run out!)

A brief word about electronics: I.S. 27 policy is that all electronics will be confiscated if they are audible or visible in school. The procedure at I.S. 27 is that these items be given to our parent coordinator, Ms. Mayo, who will contact parents.

I am looking forward to a wonderful year with your child, and with all of us working together, I am sure that we can accomplish that!

Sincerely,

Ms. McGinn

Please complete and return the tear-off. Retain the information above for your records.

Student's Name

Home Room

I have received the Welcome Letter from Ms. McGinn.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____