

# WELCOME to 8<sup>th</sup> grade!

I am Mrs. Krapf, and will be your teacher for English Language Arts (ELA) and Social Studies (SS). Eighth grade is a very exciting and busy year. While June, and high school, seem a world away, they will be here before we know it. I look forward to a wonderful year, as you prepare for your next journey.

Reminders and policies to keep in mind:

- Please bring in all supplies (and one brown paper bag) by Monday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Please have parents/guardians sign and return the attached movie permission slip.
- I may be contacted through email at [kkrapf@bellmawrschools.org](mailto:kkrapf@bellmawrschools.org) or by phone at 856-931-6273.
- The district grading policy is:
  - Projects and Classwork = 25%
  - Quizzes = 25%
  - Tests = 25%
  - Participation/Attendance/Tardiness = 15%
  - Homework = 10%
- All homework, classwork, and projects are expected to be turned in on time. All work turned in early will receive 5 points extra credit. Homework and classwork turned in one day late will count for half credit, and will not be accepted after one day late. Projects will not be turned in late. If additional time is needed to work on projects, and cannot be feasibly completed at home, please arrange to come in before school, after school, or during lunch with me before the project is due.
- Students will be assigned a project for each Novel Unit in ELA, and for each Social Studies unit. Details regarding each project, including requirements, grading criteria, and due dates will be provided as each project is assigned.
- Students will work throughout the year both individually and in groups. Whether working individually or in groups, it is extremely important for students to work well without causing disruptions to their classmates.
- Working in groups is a privilege. Students that are not able to work cooperatively and respectfully within their group will be required to work individually.
- It is expected that all students treat the classroom and class supplies with respect. Students are expected to clean up after themselves, and to also respect myself, their classmates, and all substitute teachers.
- All students have the right to learn in a positive and nurturing environment. To ensure that our classroom is a positive and welcoming place, any form of bullying, disrespectful or annoying/obnoxious behavior will be tolerated.
- Starting class on time is important to being able to accomplish our goals for that day. All students are expected to quickly and quietly sit down and begin your Do Now at the beginning of both ELA and SS. Students are expected to come to class prepared daily.

- All Summer Reading projects and quizzes are due by Fri. Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>. Projects will be presented on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Summer reading quiz points will count towards your First Marking Period Reading Counts goal.
- Reading Counts Points requirements:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Marking Period – 50 points (including Summer Reading)
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Marking Period – 50 points
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Marking Period – 50 points
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Marking Period – 50 points
- Students will have a DOL (grammar) quiz every Thursday, based on skills practiced during the week. Students will have a Spelling quiz every Friday, based on the ten weekly spelling words.
- Students are expected to read 30 minutes daily as part of their homework, in addition to any other homework assigned. Students are responsible for recording two reading response journals each week in their reading journal, and identifying four vocabulary terms from their independent reading each week.
- Students can access the entire Social Studies textbook online:
  - <http://glencoe.com/ose/>
  - Access code = B224DA1361

I hope your 8<sup>th</sup> grade year is a year of growth, hard work, fun, and lasting memories.

# 8<sup>th</sup> grade Movie Permission Slip

**\*Return by Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>\***

Throughout the year students will watch and critically analyze the following movies as part of the ELA and SS curriculum:

- Flowers for Algernon
- The Outsiders
- Westside Story
- Schindler's List
- Boy in the Striped Pajamas
- Documentaries on The Holocaust, including Elie Wiesel's interview with Oprah Winfrey

By signing below, you grant permission for your child to watch the movies included in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA and SS curriculum.

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_