

7th Grade – General Information – Mrs. Donohue Students and Parents

Welcome to 7th grade. I am looking forward to being your teacher and I am excited about the learning that will take place during this new school year. Below are my expectations for our classroom. Please read this and the attached papers with your parents/guardians. The last page must be signed and returned to me. Please feel free to contact me at school at 372-3222 to discuss any questions or concerns that may arise throughout the year. My goal is to work as a team to make the most of this school year.

GRADING

Language Arts

Home/class work – 20%
Quizzes – 25%
Writing Projects – 25%
Tests – 30%

Religion

Participation - 20%
Homework – 20%
Quizzes – 20%
Tests – 40%

Art

Participation – 30%
Activities – 35%
Projects/Assessments – 35%

Homework – Homework is essential in developing and practicing concepts taught at school. Every assignment given is necessary to monitor understanding and comprehension within the different disciplines. I am flexible with assigning homework and many assignments are given early to allow for completion. Students are given time to complete work in class. It is the student's responsibility to organize his/her assignments and plan time for homework completion. Assigned homework is checked daily. The homework is graded using points. This will be totaled cumulatively, for the quarter. If a student receives an incomplete "I", no credit will be issued until the paper is properly completed and returned the next day, and points will be deducted from the final grade.

Assignment Book and Supplies – All students are required to have an assignment book. It is the student's responsibility to write down short and long term assignments. Students must also have the required supplies at all times; without appropriate materials, assignments may not be completed adequately. This includes textbooks, novels, and materials. Missing assignments may be given for missing or uncovered textbooks/novels.

Missing Assignment – A student must be responsible for academic work to guarantee success in his/her educational career. An assignment not turned in on time will be considered late and a missing assignment will be issued. When receiving a missing assignment, the work must still be completed and given to the teacher the following day accompanied by the signed missing assignment slip. If a student has an extremely valid reason for missing work, please provide a note from a parent/guardian explaining the reason. Three missing assignment notices, from any teacher, will result in detention.

Absences – If a student is absent, a classmate will prepare the missed assignments for pick up in the office or for a younger sibling to bring home. It is still the student's responsibility to obtain all missed work. Missed work is due the following day. Tests and quizzes, will be made up as soon as possible. These guidelines apply to early dismissal and late day arrivals as well.

Unexcused Absences – I will give only general assignments. No specific assignments will be given for unexcused absence from school. Any general assignment must be completed immediately upon returning to school. Please plan vacation time during the scheduled school breaks. These types of absences disrupt learning and place a burden on the student.

Grades and Papers – It is the student's responsibility to keep all papers in their binder for the entire quarter. The binder should stay in a neat and orderly manner. Students should show you their work when it is returned to them.

The following is a list of the areas within Language Arts that we will focus on for this year.

Reading - We will be reading daily in class – either individually, or as a group. I will schedule time for Silent Sustained Reading. You are expected to read the class novel or a personally selected book during this time. It is important that you keep up with the reading of novels. If you are falling behind, please see me to make arrangements. You will have great difficulty with quizzes, tests, and discussions if you are behind in the reading.

As a class, we will read a variety of genres and styles throughout the upcoming year. In addition to the selected classroom novels, we will also read short stories, poems, and self-selected novels.

You should have a book in your possession at all times. If you have read the required reading in the class novel, then you may read your personal book. Through reading you will be able to broaden your perspectives and your thinking. At different times throughout the year, I will introduce to you different young adult novels that I have read and enjoyed. There will be many opportunities to complete a variety of reading activities throughout the year. Reading activity packets will accompany many of the novels. Activities involving the Internet will be incorporated throughout the curriculum. **Please remember to sign the permission slip for Internet use.** For one quarter, the students will participate in reading workshop. They will work at their own pace to complete a contracted number of reading assignments. I will be CLOSELY monitoring these achievements in order to keep the students on task.

Writing - Throughout the year, we will be completing a wide range of writing pieces from creative to guided writing. All portions of these writing pieces will be stored in your portfolio in the classroom. I expect you to keep all graded pieces in your writing portfolio. Other types of writing will include journal entries and writing activities associated with the reading. Final written pieces and all projects must be completed on a computer. Occasionally the students will write from a prompt in a journal. A composition notebook will be used to record journal activities. This may include writing prompts, story starters, and written responses pertaining to reading selections. Each entry must be dated and titled.

Language Skills - The area of language skills will include vocabulary, spelling, grammar, and mechanics. All of these disciplines will be incorporated into the reading and writing on a daily basis. This year we will continue with Daily Oral Language. There will be tests, quizzes, and numerous activities within the language skills curriculum. Vocabulary and spelling assessments will be given on a weekly basis and will focus on increasing your vocabulary and spelling experience. I will be intently covering the parts of speech. English usage and sentence diagramming will also be included to strengthen the writing process. We will use the book *Writer's Choice Grammar and Composition* to complete many of the language skills requirements.

Computers – There will be opportunity for students to work with the computers in guided computer training. The guide will take groups of the students to the lab to work on various computer programs and projects. We also have 31 wireless laptops for student use. Computer projects include PowerPoint presentations, webquests and written reports.

Classroom novels for 7th grade

The Cay – Theodore Taylor

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry – Mildred Taylor

A Day No Pigs Would Die – Robert Peck

The Devil's Arithmetic – Jane Yolen

My Brother Sam is Dead – Collier Brothers

Stepping on Cracks – Mary Downing-Hahn

We will also use selected pieces from *Literature* – Bronze Level.

Classroom Social Expectations

There are a few basic rules that I expect every student to follow within our classroom. Please make sure that you are aware of these expectations at all times. I adhere to the Boy's Town training and I will do my very best to teach, adhere and follow those guidelines.

1. **Respect other people and their property.** Remember to treat others, as you would like to be treated. This includes ensuring everyone the privilege of learning by respecting differing opinions, styles, experiences, and opportunities and property through Christ-like behavior.
2. **Exercise self-control.** Think about your behavior and actions in a calm manner. Know that everything you do affects someone else. Make wise choices. Accept responsibility for your actions, and correct any unwise decisions.
3. **Be a responsible student by completing all assignments and following directions.** These two concepts will ensure success within your education and ensure a valuable learning experience.

As far as consequences, I will impose the following for a student who is violating the classroom rules.

First offense – Verbal warning and possible removal from the situation if necessary

Second offense – Student conference with teacher and an appropriate consequence

Third offense – Disciplinary notice and possible dismissal to the office. Depending on the severity of the offense, I will notify a parent or guardian concerning the matter.

Proper behavior and respect are of the utmost importance in this classroom. Disruptions and offenses will not be tolerated. Interruptions suspend the learning process for other students and teaching time for myself.

I am available, by appointment, for conferences between 7:15 – 7:45 and 2:50 – 4:00. If you have any questions or concerns, please be sure to call. You can reach me at 372-3222. I will return your call as soon as possible. Please sign and return the slip below.

Thank- you,
Mrs. Donohue

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We have read and understand the syllabus and classroom expectations sheets for Mrs. Donohue's classroom.

_____ Parent/Guardian Signature

_____ Student Signature

Date _____