**
Jamestown Middle School**

August 28, 2017

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Jamestown Middle School and to Language Arts! This is my twelfth year at JMS and I love teaching this subject. I have a passion for reading and writing that I hope to pass along to you. I look forward to getting to know you as the year progresses. I hope the information below will help you get a good start in this subject.

**Typical Class Day**

I think consistency is vital for success. I strive to provide students the necessary structure so that the focus of each class period can be on learning. Each day in Language Arts will be divided into three main components.

1. **Grade-Level Instruction: Read/Write/Discuss Complex Text**
	1. Common Core Mini Lesson:
		* Teacher introduces today’s Focus
	2. Read/Write/Discuss Complex Text:
		* Whole-group, grade level shared reading or writing
		* Students work in small groups/pairs to practice applying today’s Focus to the shared text or to writing.
2. **Differentiated Support: Reading**
	1. Independent Reading
		* Students practice applying today’s Focus to self-selected texts at a variety of levels.
	2. Formative Assessment
		* Teacher works 1:1 to accelerate reading growth through Power Goal conferences; Teacher checks proficiency with the day’s focus.
3. **Differentiated Support: Writing**
	1. Writing
		* Students practice applying today’s Focus to writing
	2. Formative Assessment
		* Teacher works 1:1 to coach writing proficiency and growth

**Grade Information**

The grading scale operates on a 10-point scale.

**A=90-100**

**B=80-89**

**C=70-79**

**D=60-69**

**F=0-59**.

In this class your student’s grade will be broken down into the following categories:

**Homework (10%)** Homework will largely consist of reading at home and completing reading logs and/or response questions.

**Class Work (30%)** Students can expect at least one class work grade per week. Class work includes many things - notes, activities, graphic organizers, etc. **Quizzes (25%)** Standards-based assessments will be given once a week.
**Tests/Projects/Formal Writing (35%)** During each unit, there will be a variety of assessments. These may include traditional tests, multimedia projects, and formal writing. The majority of these assignments will be completed in class. A rubric, instructions, and a reasonable amount of time will be given for each project.

**Late/Missing Work Policy**

If you are absent, you have three days to make up the work. It is the student’s responsibility to ask about work that was missed and turn it in. There is a make-up work bin on my classroom counter to find handouts you may have missed.

If you have a missing assignment on a progress report, you have three days from the day the report was issued to make up the missing assignment.

If work is not completed by the student within that time frame, he/she will need to stay with his/her Language Arts teacher during lunch or after school to complete the assignment. Choosing not to complete the assignment is not an option.

**Other Important Information**

Sixth grade is a big step from elementary school. The focus in Language Arts shifts to inferencing, critical thinking skills and making connections with a text. Students should expect to be challenged in their classwork, homework, reading and writing. My goal is to see students reach their full potential and master the 6th grade Common Core State Standards.

**Library Visits** ELA classes visit the library regularly so there should never be a time that a student is without a book to read in class or at night. Students can also visit the library during A/A and during extra time in any core class. If a student loses a book, the student must pay for the book or buy a replacement copy.

**Tutoring** I will offer tutoring on Mondays. Plans must be made in advance for a student to stay for tutoring.

**Volunteers** I welcome parent volunteers in our classrooms.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me. I look forward to working with you!

 Sincerely,

 Sherry Allen

 6th Grade Language Arts

**First Assignment – worth 2 Quiz Grades!**

**Returning this portion of the Language Arts Letter signed by both parties’ counts as your student’s first two quiz grades!**

**It is due Friday, September 1, 2017**

**Your signatures are indications of the following:**

* **Both parent and student have read and discussed the newsletter and its contents.**
* **Both parent and student are aware that the student is held accountable for meeting expectations and following included procedures and policies.**
* **Both parent and student understand that there are consequences for failing to adhere to guidelines as mentioned in the letter.**

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**Parent Name Parent Signature**

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**Student Name Student Signature**

**Parent email (Please print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent Phone:**

**Home:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Cell:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Work: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\*\*Please note that email is the best way to get in touch with me: allens6@gcsnc.com**