Mrs. Amy (/Kruk)

7th Grade Language Arts

2014-2015

amys@wcsoh.org

Welcome to seventh grade language arts! I am SO excited to have you here, and I hope you are ready for a year of reading, writing, and fun! This year, you will collaborate with your classmates to improve your reading and writing skills in “reading and writing workshop.” Think about a workshop full of tools, where you can build things with an increasing level of skill and complexity. You may start out only with a nail, a hammer, and a few pieces of wood, but eventually you would move to a nail gun, a power saw, and your own designs will come to life! Language arts this year will be just like a workshop. Books, your peers, your pencil, and your mind are just some of your tools - the possibilities are endless!

Mrs. Amy’s Expectations:

 Let me begin by saying this: I believe in each and every one of you. I do! I will do as much as I can to help you be successful. While I will let you have a hand in creating rules for your class, I do have some expectations that will help you and I make this class a GREAT one!

* Read the supply board outside of the door each day before coming to class. It will ensure that you bring everything you need to class that day. The more prepared you are to learn, the more you will learn! **At the very least, you should ALWAYS have a writing utensil, an independent novel, your homework (if assigned), and a separate folder or binder for your language arts materials.**
* I have high expectations for your work ethic (your perseverance and how hard you work) and work quality (how much care and effort to detail you put into your learning). Just as I come to Heritage Middle School every day to teach and do my job, you come every day to learn – that is your job! Try your best to present work of the best quality you can. After all, who wants to be evaluated on something they don’t try to do well? ☺
* While I do not necessarily give a lot of homework in my class, please understand that homework is part of the learning process. I do not assign “busywork” – each assignment has a purpose and will give you an opportunity to practice or review what we are or will be learning in class, apply it to real life, or prove what you know. I expect that homework assignments will be completed on time, and you can expect me to clearly post homework assignments on the whiteboard at the front of the room.
* Cell phones, tablets/iPads, headphones, etc. can be used in class ***when I deem appropriate*** and grant you permission. There will be certain times I will let you use your electronic device in class for music, research, or reference. In those cases, I will try to give you a “heads up” ahead of time. Sometimes, I will play music during writing times, and I try to pick interesting or inspiring tunes to listen to softly while we work. If you prove as a class that we can listen to music and be productive and still learn, there will be times I will let you bring your own headphones to listen to music in class, but please know that that is a privilege that will not happen all too often!
* All classroom supplies (anything you did not bring to this room yourself) MUST be returned. Theft is unacceptable. I would not go into your locker and steal your items, so please have the same respect for mine. Do not break pencils in half, write on the desks, etc. You are seventh graders now – you know the deal! ☺ Plus, at HMS, we show PRIDE!
* I am not your locker (and I sure hope I don’t look like one! ☺), so please do not leave your belongings in my room unless you have my permission. I have my own belongings to keep track of, and I am not responsible for your things. This also means that even if you have language arts class right after lunch, you cannot just leave your things here.
* Swearing is NEVER acceptable in my classroom – neither are insults! We all learn better in an environment that fosters respect, collaboration, and patience. EVERYONE is welcome here, and EVERYONE belongs!
* Listen to directions and follow them the best that you can every day. Have you ever had a conversation with someone and had to repeat yourself several times? Not fun, right? I promise to try and make directions as clear and brief as possible, and I will have them in writing for you often.

Thank you in advance for keeping these expectations in mind. You will learn quickly that I care very much about each and every one of you as people and as students, and that is why I have these expectations in place!

Contacting Mrs. Amy

EMAIL: amys@wcsoh.org

Email is absolutely the best way to get a hold of me! I have recently changed my name (I got married!), so my email still uses by maiden name, “Amy”. If/when it changes, I will be sure to notify you immediately!

PHONE: After school, for homework questions (until 8:00 PM): **614-859-4440**

This phone number is a voicemail system, meaning I will not answer, but you will be able to leave a message and I will return your call as soon as possible. If you have a question about the homework or something urgent after school, you can call and leave a voicemail message with your name and number, and I will usually get back to you within ten minutes!

INSTAGRAM: @krukhuskies

I will post the homework on Instagram each day, and you can ask appropriate questions there as well. I will occasionally post some fun and helpful things as well! Please do not ask me to follow your personal account – the answer is no!

SCHOOLOGY:

We will use Schoology periodically this year for discussions and other activities. If you have a question about assignments, please try one of the other ways to get in touch with me, as I will be faster to respond! ☺

How will class “work” this year?

1. We will have a warm-up (a “do now”) activity every day. It will be posted on the front board. When you enter the room, I expect you to grab any materials on the desk, and quietly get to work, even before the bell rings, if possible. Don’t worry – we will work on this! ☺
2. We will take a STAR test every month to assess your reading skills. Based on your STAR reading score, you and I will work together to set an AR goal for the school year. By the end of the first quarter, you will be expected to have accomplished least 25% of your goal. By the end of the second quarter, you will be expected to have accomplished at least 50% of your goal. If you get WAY ahead of schedule, we can readjust your goal. Likewise, if you are having trouble reaching your goal and you are trying your absolute best, we can adjust your goal as well! ☺
3. We will be using a “workshop” approach in class this year for reading and writing. Each of you will have a different goal for how to improve your skills, but we will all work on them at the same time. Workshops can be a bit different at first, but you will get the hang of it! During workshop time, I expect that you will stay on task and focused on improving yourself and your knowledge. I will be there for you, every step of the way!
4. DO NOT EXPECT EXTRA CREDIT. I am not against it, but it is never a guarantee.

What do I need for class this year?

You will need these items for language arts class this year. You will need these by this date: Friday, August 20. If you cannot obtain them, please have a parent/guardian contact me and I will do what I can to help.

* **Spiral-bound notebook (at least one subject).**
* **One package of notecards, lined or unlined.**
* **A highlighter**
* **One single package of post-its**
* **A folder or binder specifically for language arts.**

I always recommend that you have a flash drive (USB drive) for storage of your writing assignments and projects. Even though we will use Google Docs for a lot of things, having a backup is a big help! If you do not have one, though, please don’t worry! ☺

Student and Parent/Guardian Signature

Please read the syllabus and sign on the line. By signing, you are agreeing that you have read the syllabus and are aware of the expectations for seventh grade language arts with Miss Amy.

Sign and return by: THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2015

Student Signature:

I, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(*print your name*) acknowledge that I have read the course syllabus and agree to follow expectations to the best of my ability during the 2014-2015 school year.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature:

I acknowledge that I have read/reviewed the course syllabus and understand the expectations for my child in language arts this year.

Signature; \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Please do not hesitate to e-mail me at any time! I look forward to being a partner with you in your child’s literacy journey!*

Thank you so much! ☺

**Students:**

**Please complete the technology survey on the next page. It is helpful to me in planning for class to know what technology you do or do not have outside of school. This information will be completely private – I will not share it with your classmates!**

*Please respond to the following statements by circling “Y” for YES or “N” for NO. Use the box provided under each statement to explain anything you think you need to. PLEASE NOTE: NONE of the devices in question are necessary for success in language arts. If you do not have technology at home, please know that I will provide as many opportunities with computers as possible here at school! ☺*

I have a computer at home with internet access. Y N

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I have a computer at home that I can type essays and assignments with. Y N

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I have a handheld electronic device with wireless internet access. (iPad, tablet, iPod) Y N

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I have a cellphone. Y N

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My cellphone has internet access. Y N

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I bring my cellphone to school every day. Y N

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I have an Instagram account and can follow Mrs. Amy’s account for homework help and reminders. Y N

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I have a working printer at home. Y N

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Thank you! ☺