

Dear Readers and Writers,

Hello! Welcome to Language Arts. This is a daily class that focuses on building and strengthening your reading and writing skills. We will spend our class time interacting with high-interest reading materials, in order to study and write for a variety of purposes. In addition, we will be reading and writing, in class, every single day.

Author George R.R. Martin once said, “A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one.” I love this quote, because it explains what we can get from books. Reading can take us to places that we have never been before. It opens our minds to new things and experiences that we otherwise might never have the opportunity to see.

Throughout the school year, you will be challenged to find and experience different “lives”. You will have free choice in the reading that you do. We will read a couple of novels as a class, but beyond that you will have free choice in the reading that you do. I want you to experience different worlds and the different writing styles of various authors. In order to accomplish this, we will have a set independent reading time in class every day. I will talk to you about the books that I’m reading and I will listen while you tell me about the books that you are reading.

Reading will only be one half of our class this year. The other half will be filled with writing and we will write every single day. We will study writing by reading and analyzing our independent books, mentor texts, articles, and each other’s writing. Our goal is to learn from professionals, as well as from each other. As said by Stephen King, “If you want to be a writer you must do two things above all others: read a lot, and write a lot.” One my goals this year is to help you become lifelong readers and writers. I want you to find the joy in these things, as they are so important to who we are.

I am so excited to have you in class this year! I cannot wait to see all of the things that we accomplish in the next thirty-six school weeks.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Berkovitz

Materials expected in class every day:

Fiction Novel for silent reading
Binder and writing instrument

Not allowed in classroom:

Food
Drinks
Gum/Candy

These will be thrown away if they are seen in the classroom. We have students with food allergies and we have technology in here that we need to protect from sticky wet things.

e x p e c t a t i o n s

1. Be on time, on task, and ready to learn every day.
2. Raise your hand to speak and/or leave your seat.
3. Listen to and follow directions the first time they're given.
4. Clean up after yourself.
5. Always try your best.

Absences & Work

It is your responsibility to make up work when you are absent.

Assessments (tests, quizzes, projects) are graded on a 4- point proficiency scale.

Assessments may be redone to show proficiency.

They must be done in the classroom and scheduled with Mrs. Berkovitz to be done before or after school.

Assignments may be turned in during the six-week period in which they were assigned.

Guest Teacher (substitute)

In the event that I am unable to be in school, my expectation is that you are respectful, responsible, safe and considerate of the guest teacher for that day. You are a representation of me and our classroom, and should act accordingly. Disrespectful behaviors will be noted by the guest teacher and I will add to your consequences when I get back.

Proficiency Scale:

4 = 100% Advanced

3 = 85% Meets

2 = 70% Nearly Meets

1 = 60% Does Not Meet

Returning this syllabus is a homework assignment and will be worth 10 points in the gradebook.

It must be signed by both student and parent or guardian. Please detach this page, sign it, and have your student return it by Monday September 19, 2016

By signing this, I acknowledge that I have read and understand the syllabus for Mrs. Berkovitz's Language Arts class.

We understand that: ♦ We will be reading and writing every single day. ♦ Students are expected to follow all classroom expectations, each time they are in the classroom. Houck policies are also in effect during class time. ♦ Assignments that are not completed during class become homework. ♦ Assignments must be turned in on time. ♦ Students who are absent are responsible for getting any notes and make up work. ♦ Students who receive lower than a 3 on assessment may redo that task to show proficiency.

_____ Student Name (printed) Date

_____ Parent/Guardian Name (printed) Date