

August 10, 2015

Hello Families of the Honors Academy of Literature!

My name is Ms. Katie and I have the wonderful pleasure of teaching your child this year in Level 6 Literacy!

I want to start off by mentioning a few things about myself and then going through the expectations of this class.

**About Me:**

This is my third year of teaching here at Honors Academy. I have the incredible privilege of teaching with passionate and collaborative professionals who feel just as strongly about offering a fully differentiated learning environment for kids as I do. I teach simply because I love it. I love everything from watching the expression on a student’s face when they have finally mastered a concept to guiding them in making the right decisions in the classroom and personally that will lead them in being the best individuals they can be.

**Expectations in Literacy Class:**

This year, students will be working towards building their personal identity and conceptualizing and mastering new concepts in literacy. This will include weekly word sorts, diving into and analyzing different texts and novels, dissecting and interpreting different historical events, and above all building a love for reading.

**Daily 5:** Daily 5 is an approach to literacy that the Honors Academy has adopted since opening. Each student will be responsible for completing Daily 5 rotations in class each day. The Daily 5 consists of Read to Self, Read to Someone, Work on Writing, Word Work, and Listen to Reading. This will look different for each student depending on their learning style. Classroom assignments may be expected to be completed in different rotations of Daily 5.

**Word Sorts:** Every week your child will have a new word sort sent home. This is a part of Word Work in the Daily 5. Don’t be looking for them until about the third week of school since we will be focusing on developing behaviors in the classroom for Daily 5. Once students begin word study in class, they will have a weekly word study quiz in class that will determine if they have mastered the concept of their given sort.

**Classwork:** Students will have different assignments connected to mini-lessons taught in class. This may be lessons in grammar, literacy concepts, writing, and social studies. Social studies is taught in literacy and students will have occasional literacy-based social studies assignments in class. Students will receive points for completed classwork that will contribute to their overall grade or mastery of a standard in class.

**Homework:** In level 6 literacy, students are expected to complete and turn in their homework every week. At this level, students should be working on about 60 minutes of homework on average per night total, which includes all of their classes. Entering middle school means students are working towards a self-motivated learning style and are expected to put their best effort into homework. Student’s homework letter grades or measure of mastery of a standard will be reflective of their completion, effort, and overall accuracy put into the assignment. Homework will always be assigned on Monday and due the following Monday.

**Behavior:** The middle school students at the Honors Academy are considered leaders within the school and young students look up to the actions of the older students. The expectation in middle school is to act in a manner that would be expectant of a positive working environment. Students should work towards being their best selves and are more than capable of being positive role models for the rest of the school; they will all be held to such a standard.

**Contacting Me:** If you ever have any questions or concerns regarding your child, please always feel free to email me at ms.katie@academyoflit.org. All lesson plans and homework assignments are posted on my website weekly at mskatiestewart.weebly.com. If your child should lose a homework assignment this is where you can access another copy. I also keep extra copies of every week’s homework in the classroom.

I look forward to working with you and your scholar this year at the Honors Academy!

Sincerely,

Ms. Katie Stewart