

Wednesday, September 13, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

My name is Ryan McHale, and I am thrilled to be your child's 8th grade Language Arts teacher this year! The eighth grade ELA curriculum is jam-packed with outstanding novels, plays, poetry, and more. Over the next nine months, your child will be challenged to read complex works of literature, write thoughtful responses, and feel confident in defending their positions. I sincerely hope that this class will be a daily highlight for each and every student.

On a more personal level, I am now entering my eighth year here at Stacy Middle School. During my first six years, I worked as a 6th grade language arts teacher. It's been great to see some familiar faces as I begin my second year in 8th grade. In addition to teaching language arts, I am also the Curriculum Team Leader for ELA/Reading (Grades 6-8). I hope to earn my Principal/Assistant Principal license in early of 2018.

I currently live in Milford with my wife, Shannon, and two children, Landon (5) and Sadie (3). Contrary to what other teachers may say, I absolutely love living in the same town as my students. It's always nice to see the kids and their families around town, and I find it's incredibly helpful in understanding where a student may be coming from and the situations they may be facing.

As of today, we are on a great pace with regard to our curriculum. We have already delved into the areas of:

Short Stories

- Read "Hey You Down There" by Harold Rolseth (1971).

Plot Structure

- Exposition
- Conflict
- Rising Action
- Climax
- Falling Action
- Resolution

Characterization

- Direct vs. Indirect Characterizations
- Dynamic Characters
- Static Characters

In other news:

- As a result of our annual faculty vote, Back to School Night will not be taking place this year. Instead, we will have two parent-teacher conferences during the course of the school year. Please feel free to reach out with any questions and/or concerns, and I'd be thrilled to speak with you.
- As this newsletter is sent out to all parents/guardians, I'd ask that you please direct any questions/comments to me directly rather than hitting "Reply All." It's extremely important to maintain student confidentiality at all times.
- In terms of homework, you'll notice that aside from the weekly reading assignments and studying for assessments, I rarely give additional homework. I will certainly assign different assignments from time to time, but it was always be purposeful and directly related to what we are working on in class.
- Please let me know if your child is in need of any class supplies. I have plenty of extra material that I can certainly distribute if necessary.
- Follow me on Twitter @McHaleELA for the latest classroom updates!

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ryan McHale".

Ryan McHale, M.S.Ed.

Email: rmchale@milfordma.com

Twitter: @McHaleELA