

Ms. Johnson's Language Arts Class 2015-2016

Keep this part for reference. Return only the last page to me.

Dear Parents:

What can you expect this year? We will read, write, and speak in order to learn to communicate effectively, and when possible, we will enhance our work with technology. Curriculum will include grammar and (especially) vocabulary. We will work hard, and we will have plenty of fun along the way!

email: kjohnson1@ttsd.k12.or.us

School: 503-431-5234

Website:

<http://johnsontwality.weebly.com/>

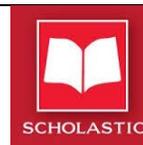


I usually order from Scholastic each month, and you can purchase these online if you'd prefer. I'm okay with the old-fashioned way too (sending checks or money orders to school with the order).

Class code for ordering:

JD7ZH

<https://orders.scholastic.com/JD7ZH>



Who am I? This is my 5th year at Twality, but I've been around our district for a while. After teaching 7th and 8th grade language arts in Central Oregon, I moved here where I began teaching at Fowler. After that I was an Instructional Improvement Specialist for the district, followed by two years as the Prevention Specialist at Tualatin High. I am immediate Past President of the Oregon Council of Teachers of English, and I co-chair the Oregon Spirit Book Award. **I am passionate about literacy and about middle school!**

TAG: I love working with TAG kids. My expectation is that they learn to advocate for themselves and tell me when/if they are not being challenged. Oftentimes if they propose a sensible alternate assignment (an extension of what we are doing for instance; or doing it a different way), I will gladly help make it happen. Occasionally I allow alternative projects.

Grading and Late Work: Please see the separate handout about this.

No late work is accepted the last week of the grading period. (Have mercy!)

Redoing Assignments and Extra Credit: Please see the separate grading handout about these also.

Absences: Students are responsible for checking the website for missing work; Long-term assignments (that the student knew about before the absence) will be due the day the student returns.

Behavior: I expect students to come to class prepared and to work hard, and to be kind, respectful, and safe. A complete list of procedures and expectations will be given to students to keep for reference. **Electronic devices in the classroom will be confiscated and turned in to the main office according to school policy.**

Perfume and scented lotions: I have asthma and am allergic to most fragrances, so my classroom is a fragrance-free zone. Fragrance is a problem for certain students as well. **Thank you!**

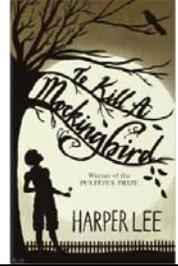
Classroom Supply List

It would be great if those who can afford it would donate extra to help those who can't.

- **Composition notebook**
And an ample, on-going supply of
- **Pencils #2**
- **Pens** (blue or black ink)
- **Paper** (loose, not in a spiral)
- **Correction tape** (rather than liquid)

Optional:

To Kill a Mockingbird (If you want your child to have a copy at home to read and possibly mark up. Scholastic usually has these for a good price.)



Things I'd appreciate (not required)

- **Kleenex** (you'd be surprised how much we use)
 - **Pretzels**—Costco large bags (we go through three large bags a week)
 - **Smarties** candies (for my smartie students)
- If you would prefer that I purchase these things, donations of money will be put to good use. ☺*

Planners: 8th grade is an essential time developmentally for students to take responsibility for themselves and their learning. This will help them transition successfully to high school. I will put assignments on the board each day and students should copy them into their planners. I also put assignments on my website.

Homework: Your child will always have homework for my class, even if it's just reading. You can expect him/her to regularly have:

- **vocabulary to study each week**, (a vocabulary sheet due each Monday), and
- **regular entries on a reading they log**. (approximately 50 pages/week = B; 100 pages/week = A)
- At the end of **each quarter**, students turn in **one fill-in-the-blank book report** (Book Events Sheet) -, even though they will read multiple books, as well as, one **literary analysis paragraph**.

Reading Program: Students are expected to **read at home at least 3-4 times a week**. I cannot overemphasize the importance of this, because to be successful in high school and college, students **must** be able to focus on reading for extended periods of time. They will keep track of it on a Reading Log that is to be kept in their binder. See the grading policy handout for more information.

For full credit, students need to bring their independent reading book to class each day, and especially on Fridays. Their grade will be affected if they don't have their book or log for SSR, if they don't show regular progress, or if they consistently read below grade level.

Because the reading is student choice, I don't assign individual books (other than TKAM). Students may get books from the library, the store, Scholastic orders, or from my personal library. I just ask that they reimburse me if they damage or lose one of my books.

In my library, **some books are clearly marked 'mature content.'** They are **not** required reading, and my students know they should stop reading a book if they get uncomfortable. They also know they should get parent permission before reading a mature book.

This is a lot of information—thanks for hanging in there. ☺ I'm looking forward to a terrific year!

Warm Regards,

Karen Johnson

Parent Homework:

Please complete this and have your student bring it back to Ms. Johnson’s class by Monday.

Student Name (please print) _____

Parent Name(s) _____

Phone #'s

(Please identify if work/home/cell, and put an asterisk by the number(s) you prefer I use. Secondary numbers are for emergency use only – or if I have difficulty reaching you by the preferred number.)

_____: _____
_____: _____
_____: _____
_____: _____

Parent email addresses: *(Please put an asterisk by the one(s) you prefer I use for class communications.)*

(Please print clearly, and if none, please indicate “none”)

Would you like to be included on the class newsletter email list? YES NO
(These are somewhat inconsistent, but my website is generally up-to-date.)

Signature

Date

Videos: *Occasionally I show videos with a rating of PG or PG 13. If this is a concern, please let me know on this returned portion so I can make other arrangements for your child. (To Kill a Mockingbird, and Anne Frank are two I will show for sure. It is possible I will show Remember the Titans and/or October Sky as well.*

Snacks: *I usually give snacks—generally pretzels—during SSR on Fridays. I also give Smartie candies. If your child has allergies, or if you prefer I not share snacks with them, please let me know.*

Can you help with snacks you ask? Yes, please!

I could really use help buying Pretzels. We go through about 3 Costco sized bags of pretzels a week (about \$60 a month). Smarties are welcome too, as are monetary donations 😊

Please do NOT feel obligated to do this, especially if it would not fit easily into your budget.

One the back, please add any other information you think I should know about your child, including snack/treat restrictions, and/or video restrictions, if any, Thanks!