

Junior High Reading

Inclusion teachers: Mrs. Reilly acreilly@cps.edu (8th) Mrs. Roche lzroche@cps.edu (6th)

Welcome back! Our school theme this year is the **GAME** theme- Grow Achieve Master Excel~ "Cassell Plays the Game". Our end-game is to have every student engaged in reading, in and out of school. We will be encouraging that growth in many different ways during the school day and hope you will continue the growth opportunity at home. Homeroom Procedures (for 119 students): Breakfast is served at 7:30, please enter the rotunda doors. Otherwise, line up at the door closest to Homan Ave. Entry is from 7:30 to 7:45. Doors will be closed at 7:45 sharp. After 7:45, entry will only be permitted through the front doors and a tardy will be issued. Dismissal is out the same door closest to Homan at 2:45. Remember phones are not allowed on campus. All staff are trained to confiscate any phone that is visible on school grounds and send it to the office for a parent to pick up between the hours of 7:30 and 2:45. More information will follow via email regarding graduation, trips, and 8th Grade expectations so please make sure your email is always updated with Mrs. Pienta.

Curriculum: Our Balanced Literacy block consists of vocabulary, sustained silent reading, and lessons based on Common Core Standards. Students will be reading books in our class independently on a daily basis. We will be encouraging them to continue their reading at home each night. Our class library is full of young adult literature, some of which may touch on sensitive subjects or may have curse words. The students are encouraged to borrow books from us, but if this makes you uncomfortable, please feel free to escort your child to the Chicago Public Library, Bookies, or Half Price Books and choose a book together. The rest of the curriculum will be a mixture of Greek and Latin Affixes, comprehension, fluency, and responding to literature. The consumable text, ***My Perspective*** and novels will be used to facilitate these skills along with the computer based program, IXL.

Main reading standards covered for the 1st quarter (subject to change):

- Citing Text Evidence with support
- Close reading
- Critical-Thinking
- Inferencing
- Sustained silent reading

Novels for the year:

6th grade- *Touching Spirit Bear*
Ghost of Spirit Bear

7th grade- *The Outsiders*
A Wrinkle in Time
Chasing Lincoln's Killer

8th grade- *The Giver*
Monster

Grading:

The school wide system is on a 10 point scale: 90-100 is an A, 80-89 is a B, etc.

Aspen will be updated weekly and needs to be monitored by a guardian and the student. Various assignments will be evaluated with a grade using a point system: i.e. a journal entry may be worth 5 points and the student might earn 4 out of the 5 total points. As a schoolwide initiative, a proper heading is mandatory for work to be graded. Also, there are no individual extra credit opportunities, so please encourage your child to do their best and hand in all work on time throughout the entire quarter. A code of "Msg", with a value of zero, will show if there is missing work due to any reason. Absent work needs to be completed within a couple days upon return and late work will be accepted for reduced value up to 2 days late.

Grades will be calculated using these categories:

Assignments, Discussions-40%

Tests, Quizzes, Projects-55%

and Group Collaboration, Exit Slips-5%

Homework Time will be allocated during each period for free reading and occasionally a grade will be given for the engagement of this activity.

We expect every student to continue reading at home every night for at least 20 minutes. Some students can keep track of their free-read book well enough to take it to and from school to read. However, other students find it easier to keep one book at school and one at home. Please help your child figure out the best routine for them. Homework assignments will consist of nightly reading, weekly IXL assignments, and occasional assignments that will enhance the standard we are working on in class.

Agendas and Absent Work: Agendas are provided by the school and are a great tool for organizing. Homework is written in every room on the homework chart. If your child is absent, please know there is a secretary in every room keeping track of what they missed and what needs to be completed and handed in. This information along with any worksheets will be placed in their mailbox. Absent work is expected to be made-up in the few days following the child's return to school. Any tests missed due to absence will be on my front board and the student is responsible for finding time to make them up.