August 18, 2013

Cherokee Trail High School

Ms. Huntzinger

Ninth Grade English

Fall 2013

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and to express my excitement about working with your child this upcoming year. I am looking forward to a successful year and I hope that you and your student are as well. For this 2013/2014 school year I have planned many fun and exciting activities to help students engage in the language arts. We will be working with a variety of poetry, plays, novels, and non-fiction pieces over the course of the year. Working with these texts will serve to enhance students’ writing and reading skills.

Every activity and assessment done in this course has been planned in alignment with the Colorado State Standards and is intended to help students gain proficiency in their reading abilities. To understand the texts we read for this class, students will engage in series of before reading, during reading, and after reading activities. These activities include daily writing, research, class discussion, and various interactive and creative tasks. Through these activities students will build comprehension skills, vocabulary, fluency and word recognition, spelling ability, and inference skills. These skills are essential to becoming a good reader. I hope that classroom instruction will also give students the confidence that they need to read well and help them learn to appreciate and find books that they will enjoy. After this year is over, I hope that all students will be proficient readers, have a skill set to help them when they are struggling, and learn to enjoy reading.

Students will be doing a variety of different projects over the course of the year. They will be completing daily writing assignments, reflecting on their reading, and use those writings to write longer, formal papers. There will also be opportunities for students to express their understanding through more creative means. These other assignments will provide choices for the different learning styles of each individual student. By offering a wider variety of assignments, I am hoping that each student will be given an opportunity to show their knowledge through a means in which they can be successful. One of our fist class projects will be a book talk presentation which every student will complete. This project is designed to help students find a book which fits their individual interests and reading abilities. I hope that by offering students choices, they will be able to enjoy reading more and produce work that they feel confident in.

Respect is of the upmost importance in my classroom. I expect students to be respectful of me and of their peers. Derogatory comments will not be tolerated. My classroom should be a space where students feel comfortable to express their thoughts without worry of judgment or disrespect. Oral communication will play a large role in this course and students will be expected to share their thinking aloud with the rest of the class. It is my hope that my classroom will be a safe place for students to develop oral communication skills alongside their written practices.

In my classroom, I hope that every student will be given the opportunity to learn to the best of the ability and be successful participants. I will be posting learning objectives and student grades on the PowerSchool system. I hope that your child will share their classroom experiences with you and that you will play an active role in your child’s education.

I cannot wait for the upcoming year and look forward to getting to know and working with your student! Please feel free to email me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Marie Huntzinger

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