Welcome to 7th grade **English Language Arts** at Bill Reed Middle School! We have an exciting year ahead of us. Together we will be working on developing our reading comprehension, writing, communicating, and listening skills. Throughout the year we will be completing various activities to show our growth, passions, and skill mastery. LISA assignments will be utilized frequently throughout, so we encourage you to get creative! Independent, self-selected reading is a daily exercise in our curriculum, and we encourage you to read outside your comfort zone. We are looking forward to this year.

**Homework/Make-up Work/ Late Work**

- **Students are responsible for asking for and completing work when absent.** Please utilize Google Classroom, Infinite Campus, classmates, and other classroom systems to gather this work before checking in with the teacher 😊
- **Students are expected to make reading part of their daily routine** (at least 100 minutes per week) and will have in class reading assignments to help with comprehension. **15-20 minutes** time will be provided for reading in school each day, please match that at home.
- **Library checkout will be every other Friday!** If you would like a refreshment, please bring $1.00 and a cup for a cappuccino, hot chocolate, or lemonade.
- **Since we are reading so frequently, it is required that you have a book with you at all times! You never know when you can sneak in a few pages. You may read on your iPad, materials from home, materials from other libraries. It doesn’t matter where it comes from, we just want you reading what you like! :)**
- **Late work is accepted if extensions are discussed before the due date.** We realize that you have many priorities in life, so please be clear with the teacher when you require more time. Our goal is to help you be successful!

**Materials to have in class EVERYDAY:**

- Independent reading materials
- Ipad
- Headphones/earbuds
- Water bottle (our classrooms get HOT!)

**Tardies**

A student will be marked tardy if he/she is not in the room at the class start time. Excessive tardies could result in the student serving lunch detention. Plenty happens in the first few minutes of class, so you won’t want to miss out!

**Technology**

Students are not allowed to have their personal devices out during the school day. It is school policy that if we see a personal device, we take it for the duration of the class. The second time that we see the personal device, it is stored in the front office until a parent or guardian can come retrieve it. Students will be in charge of their own school iPad. We will use this device regularly, but there will be times that this needs to be “out of sight”.

**Grading:**

- Scores for assignments will be posted on Infinite Campus. Because of the nature of this subject and time/attention required to give feedback on work, it may take a while to see an assignment posted, especially if it is a longer piece of writing or a project.
- Periodically, progress will be reviewed with students in class and all scored work will be returned. I am more than happy to review scores at any point of the school year.
- **Scoring and reporting will be standards-based for this course.** The categories in the grade book are Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language. Students will also earn scores for work habits (student agency, communication, collaboration, and creative problem solving).
Task-specific rubrics will be provided for larger assessments when the assignments are given. **Remember: a 3 is GREAT—meeting grade-level expectations consistently and independently.**

- **Assignments usually cannot be re-done.** Teachers will try to provide several chances for students to show learning in each standard.
- When a student receives a **missing assignment alert**, please print it out, write it out, or show the teacher the name of the specific assignment so we can assist in looking for it or replace it.
- **Extra Help-** students who need extra help are encouraged to ask their teacher.

**Communication:**

- Please feel free to contact me—**email is best.** Calling my direct extension will always put you through to voicemail, which I am bad about checking.
- Communication, assignments, feedback, and notifications of due dates will go through Google Classroom. Please check here frequently to stay up to date with your student’s progress.
- **Students have school Gmail accounts and Google Drives.** We encourage students to use them for school purposes.

**Restroom Use**

- Students should try to use passing periods for restroom breaks
- Restrooms cannot be accessed for the first and last ten minutes of class (unless it is an emergency!)
- Students must carry a pass to and from the restroom

**Food and Drink**

- The only drink allowed in the classroom is **water.** Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle. Bill Reed does not have air conditioning, so drink up!
- Food is not allowed in the classroom.
- **Gum is okay** as long as it doesn’t disrupt others and is disposed of properly.

**Academic Honesty**

Students are expected to follow the school’s academic honesty policy by doing their **own best work** and contributing to partner and group work. Plagiarism is not tolerated at BRMS, the first offense will result in communication home and a recompletion of the assignment. The second offense will result in a 1 for that assignment and an indication on Infinite Campus of plagiarism. When in doubt, ask your teacher if you are concerned about plagiarism.