Welcome to 7th grade English Language Arts at Bill Reed Middle School! We have an exciting year ahead of us. We have a lot of work to do, and each class will be filled to the brim with reading, writing, listening, and speaking activities. For a full list of 7th grade standards, please visit www.corestandards.org or https://www.cde.state.co.us.

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

- **Homework will be usually assigned on a weekly basis.** Routine homework will be given the first day of the week and is due the last day of the week. Classwork that is not finished may become homework.
- **Students are responsible for asking for and completing work when absent.** Please utilize the class website, classmates, and other classroom systems to gather this work before checking in with the teacher 😊
- The school policy is **one-day make-up for each day absent.** I will do my best to accommodate pre-arranged absence work upon request. Those requests should be made through the office.
- 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 check out will be every other Tuesday.** This is your opportunity to renew and check out your Book of the Month books!!
- Assignments are expected to be on time as student usually have more than one day to complete them. **It's better to turn an assignment in late than not at all, but late work often ends up at the bottom of my work pile.** It will be scored LAST so please be patient if you do not immediately see it in the gradebook.
- **Assessments must be completed** and students will be hounded relentlessly for them.

**Materials to have in class EVERYDAY:**
- Silent reading book
- Pencil and colored pen
- Composition/spiral notebook specifically for this class (these should stay in the classroom at all times).
• Agenda/planner (I find that students who use these are much more successful at
managing due dates and they really help with time management)
• Two pocket folder (these will also stay in the classroom at all times).
• When special materials are required, a sign will be posted on the door.

**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 detention. Plenty happens in the first few minutes
of class, so you won't want to miss out.

**Technology**
Electronic devices such as e-readers, smartphones, tablets, laptops, etc. are
welcome. Students will be asked to store these in the class “phone day care” at the beginning
of class to ensure they are accessed at appropriate times for appropriate purposes.

_Students and their families assume all risk involved in bringing such items to class._ If
there should be some reason your student needs to contact you, they will be allowed to do so
with permission or through the office. _Social media, texting, or unauthorized use of devices_
will result in privileges being revoked.

**Grading:**
- Scores for assignments will be posted on Parent Portal. 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. Student
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.
- 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☹️
- **Students have school Gmail accounts and Google Drives.** We encourage students
to use them for school purposes. The logins are as follows:
  - First initial, middle initial, full last name, year of graduation (23)
  @thompsonshcools.org
  - Passwords are students’ lunch codes
Parents, please make sure your email and other contact information is updated in Parent Portal. Periodic messengers detailing what we are doing in literacy class will be sent home via email.

- **Student-led conferences** will be held in **October and March**.

**Restroom Use**
- Students should try to use passing periods for restroom breaks.
- If a student needs to use the restroom during class, he/she needs to get the teacher's attention and sign out on the clipboard. **Phones may not be taken to the restroom.**

**Food and Drink**
- The only drink allowed in the classroom is **water**. Students are encouraged to bring a water bottle.
- **Gum is okay** as long as it doesn't disrupt others and is disposed of properly.

**General Expectations**
- **Post it**—every day the teacher will post the agenda on the board. It's the student's job to know what we are learning in class that day and if there is homework. Write it down in your agenda.
- Students show they are listening with **SLANT** (sit up, listen, ask questions, nod, track the speaker).
- **No Opt Out**—every student will participate in classroom activities and activity breaks.
- **100%**—the teacher will not give directions or instructions without 100% class attention. Students also need to give 100% best effort.
- **Board=Paper**—when teachers expect students to copy notes, they might say "This is Board=Paper." Students should try their best to get the notes and let the teacher know if their notes are incomplete.
- **Cold Call**—the teacher can call on you at any time. The purpose is not to put students on the spot, but to give more people a chance to speak. It keeps everyone on their toes! Don’t worry, there’s usually a chance for students to think first.

**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.

**Behavior**
- Students are expected to show PRIDE behaviors in this class. Those who are disruptive or not meeting expectations will be redirected once. If behavior continues, the student will be asked to complete a **refocus form** in a neighboring classroom. Parents will be contacted. If behaviors continue, parents will be contacted for a conference. Please see the Thompson School District Student Discipline code for a full explanation of student expectations and discipline measures.