



SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Mrs. Hahn's ALA/SS Classroom

Dear Parents,

It truly has been such a great start to the year. As I told parents at Open House (thanks to all of you that came!), it's a great time to be a student and teacher in District 59. Our new administration has a clear vision of what they want the district to look like, and our new building principal, Mrs. Jodi Megerle, has brought a great amount of positivity and energy into our building. I am so excited for a wonderful school year with your children; thank you for raising them to be the great kids I already know them to be.

For those of you that were not at Open House (flyer from that evening is attached to this email as well), my name is Kristin Hahn, and I see your kids three times a day for advanced language arts (a two-period block) and social studies. I am already impressed with how courteous, responsible, and hard-working your children are. We started the year by discussing summer reading books, taking the AR tests on them, and forming a classroom climate that is welcoming and safe (ask your kids about their mandalas!).

Each month I will send, via email, a newsletter that updates you on the general happenings in our classroom. I will also email you as important information pops up throughout the month.

Next week, we will begin our first book unit of the year when we delve into selected chapters of Malcolm Gladwell's *Outliers*. It's a book about the "secrets of success," and this is a topic we will spend quite a bit of time discussing and analyzing. The students will also be introduced to my format for vocabulary instruction for the year. They will learn and master the "vocabulary chart" format as I introduce the five words from *Outliers*. Vocabulary is not taught in isolation in 8th grade—I pull the words from whatever texts we are reading and then students are asked to learn not only the definitions of those words, but also how to spell and use them correctly in their writing.

After *Outliers*, we will read *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass: An American Slave*. This pairs perfectly with our social studies unit on the Civil War. Students will engage in closely reading and analyzing the experiences of Douglass, a man who educated himself and was determined to make his way to freedom. This will be our first whole-class e-book unit of the year; the kids will obtain the free book through a Kindle app on their new Nexus 7 devices.

It's going to be a year filled with learning, adapting, and growing, and I am so very excited to be on this journey with you. Don't hesitate to call or email with any questions you may have throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Kristin Hahn

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