

# SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Mrs. Hahn's ALA/LA Classroom



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the final year of your child's elementary school career! As I told the students on the first day of school, this year is going to fly by, and before we know it, we will be celebrating your child's eighth grade graduation at Elk Grove High School! I am enjoying getting to know your kids; so far, they are a relatively quiet yet kind group of students. I'll take that over noisy and rude any day!

Each month I will send, via email, a newsletter that updates you on the general happenings in our classroom. I hope you will find these useful; if you ever have any suggestions, I would love to hear them. I will also email you as important information pops up throughout the month.

Our primary objective for the first two weeks of school is to build an environment of familiarity and respect. Students are in

the process of introducing themselves in the symbolic form of a mandala. They will present to the class on Tuesday, so if you have a couple minutes, please encourage your child to practice his/her presentation



on you.



Students turned in their summer reading assignments last Friday. These have been graded and entered into Skyward. I was impressed with most of the students' work! Summer reading led us into our first Essential Question (EQ) for the year: What does a good conversation look and sound like? Classes generated a list of the qualities of a good conversation, and students practiced these traits while discussing their summer reading books. We will practice these skills throughout the year in hopes of preparing students to hold mature, meaningful conversations in the future, both in and out of school.

In addition to the Common Core standards and District 59 standards, some of the things we will intensely focus on this year will be to:

- effectively annotate text in order to better comprehend and respond to it.
- formulate a solid argument and support it with credible evidence.
- write an organized paragraph and essay.
- concisely summarize text.
- be an active, contributing member of a conversation.
- speak confidently in front of a group of people.

Many of these will be addressed through the completion of the Independent Novel Project. All students will have been introduced to this quarter-long project by the end of the week. This project replaces AR requirements from years past. Your children have a very detailed assignment sheet on their computers that I encourage you to view. By next Friday, your child needs to return a signed form to me that gives him/her your permission to read his/her chosen novel. I have arranged for the school and public librarians to come and book talk a slew of books to your kids in hopes that they will ignite an interest in reading. My hope is that each student will leave this Friday with an idea of which book he/she would like to read. I'm very excited to begin this reading adventure with your kids; please encourage your children to read at home as often as possible.



Next week we will begin our 8th grade memoir unit. Advanced LA students will be pairing this writing unit with Frederick Douglass's memoir, *Narrative of the Life of an American Slave*, while regular LA students will be reading *Tuesdays with Morrie*. Tune in next month for more info about these units.

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.

### **Important Dates to Remember:**

**9/7: No School--Labor Day**

**9/9: FJHS Open House, 6-8PM**

**9/11: Independent Novel Project form and book due**

Sincerely,

*Kristin Hahn*

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