

# SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Mrs. Hahn's 8th Grade ELA 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 in June! I am enjoying getting to know your kids; so far, they are an outgoing, friendly bunch of students, which I love!

At the start of 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.

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 next week, so if you have a couple minutes this weekend, 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 lessons about good conversations and literary themes. We will practice these conversation 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.



With the ongoing focus on literacy in District 59, I am excited to share a new bulletin board in our classroom called “**Spotlight Reads.**”

Each student’s picture is displayed on the wall, and next to it is a whiteboard magnet on which they will write the title of their current book. I hope this will help inspire my students to grab new books recommended by their peers. We will be doing a lot of in-class reading, book talks, and creative activities this year in the hopes of sparking a lifelong love of reading. I’m very excited to begin this reading adventure with your kids; please encourage your children to read at home as often as possible. This is a great, short, straightforward article about the benefits of independent reading:

<http://www.scilearn.com/sites/default/files/imported/alldocs/rsrch/30388RAExtra10min.pdf>

### **Keeping Track of Your Child’s Progress**

There are many ways to stay informed this year:

1. Regularly check **Skyward**.
2. Check your child’s **academic planner**.

Thank you so much to all the parents that made sure their kids came to school with one in their hands! So far, the kids have been great about having it in class. I will take time each day to have students write their assignments in their planners. Checking the planner each night is a great way to keep up with your student’s work.

3. Ask your child to show you our **Google Classroom** page. This is where all online assignments will be housed, and you can easily view what has been turned in and what is late. You can also see my feedback on your child’s documents, too. Feel free to check over your child’s work if you are so inclined.

### **Open House**

FJHS open house is scheduled for next Wednesday, 9/7, from 6-8 PM. **Unfortunately, an important meeting at my kids’ school coincides with Friendship’s open house this year, so I will not be able to attend.** You are welcome to come and look around our classroom during the time you’re slated to be in your child’s LA class. Please contact me via email or phone if you have any questions or would like to set up a meeting.

### **Finally...**

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:**

**9/1: Picture Day**

**9/5: No School--Labor Day**

**9/7: FJHS Open House, 6-8PM**

**9/9: Stargirl Caraway Day (celebrating our students' "you-niqueness")**

**9/17: Student Senate car wash**

Sincerely,

*Kristin Fahn*

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**Articles**

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/rob-furman>

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