**Course Syllabus**

**English/Language Arts**

**Dear Parents/Guardians,**

**Welcome to a new and exciting school year! I am enthusiastic about teaching your child and look forward to working with you. The educational process can be described as a triangle with Children, Parents, and Teachers forming the vital points. We must work together and each of us must do our part to enhance the educational growth of the child. If at any time, one of us fails to do our part, the educational process deteriorates.**

**Your child’s educational growth depends largely on good school wide behavior. Therefore, your child is expected to follow a few reasonable rules so everyone may learn. If your child chooses to behave inappropriately then he/she is choosing to accept the consequences that may follow. Your support in helping maintain acceptable school wide and classroom behavior is needed and will be greatly appreciated.**

**Communication is vitally important to the success of your child’s education. Please feel free to call or email. I will return your message in a timely manner. Your child’s assignment book is also another form of communication.**

**Class/Homework will usually be given on a daily basis, except on special occasions, so your child should bring his/his assignment book and necessary materials home daily. Class/Homework will affect your child’s level of achievement and is an extension of the day’s lesson. Assignments are written on the board and it is your child’s responsibility to copy all assignments in his/her assignment book.**

**I will be working very hard to reinforce and help your child to be an organized and responsible person. Both of these skills will prove to be very valuable throughout life, especially in the workplace. I have planned and will be planning many exciting and interesting lessons. I truly hope that all of us will have an enjoyable year.**

**Sincerely,**

**Mrs. Donna Yanuskiewicz**

**Course Description:**

**The ELA course is designed to help students become stronger readers and writers through a reading and writing workshop model of teaching. We will be using Lucy Calkins’ *Units of Study* for both reading and writing.**

**Expectations at school:**

* **Explicit model/ think alouds/strategy demonstrations from teachers**
* **Small group instructions, indep reading based on interests/reading levels**
* **Conferencing with students, track student thinking, student sharing of thinking/engagement**
* **Tons of books in classroom/print rich environment, readers/writer’s notebooks, logs**
* **Quick write, entire piece of writing of focused area of instruction, rubrics, self-reflections**

**Expectations at home:**

* **Books being brought home to read**
* **More real world reading and writing at home**
* **Talking about self as a reader/writer**

**Classroom and School Expectations follow Scott Middle School’s PBIS**

* **Students are expected to exhibit appropriate and proper behavior at all times. Every student is expected to follow reasonable rules so everyone may learn. No student has the right to take learning time away from others.**
* **Students and parents are expected to set high expectations in meeting challenges and goals.**
* **Be honest, Be respectful, Be Compassionate, Be Safe.**
* **Keep a positive attitude, Do your BEST!**

**Class Rules:**

* **Come to class prepared, eager, and ready to learn.**
* **Enter the classroom and begin the daily *Please Do Now!***
* **Take out any class/homework and check board for assignments, before the mini-lesson begins.**
* **Class assignments must be completed in class or will be assigned for homework and reviewed.**
* **All school policies will be enforced. No electronic devices will be allowed in class unless given permission to do so.**

**Class/homework is an extension of each lesson used for reinforcement to aid in better understanding. Assignments maybe accepted late within a reasonable timeframe for full credit.**

**Absent:**

* **If you are absent from class, students will complete the assignment in class with the help of peers and/or Mrs. Gardner, Mrs. Yanuskiewicz. If you are suspended it is your responsibility to get missing assignments while you are absent. If you are sent to in-school suspension, all work given to you must be completed for credit.**

**Materials/Supplies:**

* **2 Notebooks: one notebook will be used for academic writing and the other for independent reading.**
* **Pencils, blue and/or black pens**
* **folder**

**Grading System: A variety of methods are used to assess student academic performance and achievement. Preparation and participation will also play an important role in determining your child’s success. The completion of homework is of critical importance and will be reviewed in class. Homework provides an opportunity for students to work independently and practice the skills and review the concepts taught in class. Class/Homework is vital to the educational process. A system of total points will be used for the grading process.**