

**Ms. Sequino**  
**St. Patrick School**  
**English Language Arts Teacher**

Dear Parents and Students:

**WELCOME BACK!** This school year will be full of exciting activities and lesson, including a short story unit featuring the likes of Jack London, John Steinbeck, Kurt Vonnegut, O. Henry, and Edgar Allan Poe;

extensive vocabulary development through root words, prefixes, and suffixes; and the study of literature through the classic growing-up tale, *The Outsiders*, by S.E. Hinton.



It is my hope and expectation that all 8th graders will put forth their very best effort and enthusiasm in exploring these topics and great works of literature. I invite you to communicate with me regularly by email at [nsequino7172@spssmith.org](mailto:nsequino7172@spssmith.org) for any questions or concerns. I look forward to an exciting, engaging year with your child, a year full of good things to come!

#### **Course Description:**

This fall season's ELA class features American short stories, including Edgar Allen Poe, O. Henry, and Kurt Vonnegut; literature through the novel, *The Outsiders*, by S.E. Hinton; and intense vocabulary studies through root words, prefixes, and suffixes.

At the close of the first trimester, I will again send out an updated course syllabus of the books and materials students should have ready for ELA class following the Christmas holidays.

**\*\*\* HOMEWORK & ASSIGNMENTS will be posted daily on my school webpage at:**  
<https://spssmith.org/ms-sequino-ela>. **\*\*\***

#### **Textbooks and Materials for Trimester 1 (now until December):**

- Pearson's 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Common Core Literature textbook;
- Student All-in-One Companion Workbook to go with the above textbook;
- Vocabulary Workbook
- A journal or notebook for note-taking, classwork, and journal writes;
- A POCKET FOLDER to contain the notebook and HANDOUTS from class
- *The Outsiders*, by S.E. Hinton, which the school has copies of for each student.
- A second novel to be decided by the class with the teacher's input and/or the drama, *A Diary of Anne Frank*, found in students' textbooks.

#### **My Expectations of Students:**

- 1) **PREPAREDNESS:** You must bring the required materials to class each day (see above).

- 2) **PUTTING IN SOLID EFFORT**: Students will be assigned journal writing and activities weekly in connection with our readings and the novel. Since homework counts as 20% of your overall grade, students are expected to complete ALL assignments!
- 3) **MEETING DEADLINES**: Students must be on time with their writing and research assignments, book reports, and projects each trimester.

### What Your Grade Will Consist of:

### Essays and Projects (30%)

## Homework (20%)

### Tests & Quizzes (30%) -

### Participation & Classwork (20%)

**= 100%**

### Class Rules:

1. **RESPECT:** You are expected to treat your teacher with respect at all times. You are also expected to be polite to your classmates. Discipline will follow according to the school's character points system / discipline policy.
2. **EFFORT:** You are expected to do YOUR BEST WORK on each assignment. Show me effort, and I will reward you with a fair grade.
3. **PLAGIARISM:** You will receive a ZERO for any work that is copied from another person, website, or book that you claim as your own, and you may receive after-school detention according to the school's character points system / discipline policy.

Please **SIGN** the section below and **SHOW** your teacher for tomorrow's class:

I have read and understand the Expectations and Class Rules for Ms. Sequino's ELA class.

1. Student Name Printed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Class Section: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Parent/Guardian's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_