### Kalispell Middle School

### Seventh Grade English Language Arts

Team Discovery

### Mrs. Kirkemo

### Email: (kirkemom@sd5.k12.mt.us)

**Website: (http://mrskirkemokms.weebly.com**)

Welcome to Seventh Grade English Language Arts! I am excited to get to know all of you! In this course, we will build on the skills you already have in English Language Arts, and you will also develop new knowledge and skills to help you write more effectively, read more deeply, and speak more eloquently. I can’t wait to get to know you this year!

**Standards Alignment and Grading**

**Standards:** This course aligns with the Montana Common Core Standards (MCCS) for English and Language Arts in general and for 7th grade in particular. For more information, you can visit the Office of Public Instruction website: <http://tinyurl.com/mtelastandards>

We use the Montana Common Core Standards (MCCS) in the Powerschool gradebook program so you and your parents can track your progress on them throughout the year. There are many standards for English Language Arts, so understand that we won’t address every single one every trimester.

What does this mean? First of all, it means we will be working hard! Students will be reading and analyzing literary and informative texts. Students will practice different types of writing, especially focusing on backing up their ideas with evidence. Students will engage in various speaking and listening tasks. Finally, students will continue to develop their knowledge and skills of language conventions and vocabulary.

**Grading:** As in all courses at Kalispell Middle School, students will be graded on the standards or objectives of the course with proficiency-based rubrics. That is, rather than receiving general letter grades, students’ grades will reflect their performance on each of the specific standards for the course. The scores indicate levels of work as follows:

* A score of 4 means Advanced or above grade level expectations
* A score of 3 means Proficient or at grade level expectations
* A score of 2 means Nearing Proficient or slightly below grade level expectations
* A score of 1 means Novice or considerably below grade level expectations
* A score of 0 means work is insufficient or unscorable or missing

**Work Ethic:** In addition to scores on academic work, students will also earn work ethic grades. These will be posted at least once a week, and will be an indication of the student’s timeliness, citizenship, teamwork, and quality of work.

### Guidelines and Rules

When many people come together to accomplish goals, as we are doing in this class, it is important to follow certain procedures to allow everyone to get the most out of our time together. Thus, we have the following guidelines and rules:

## KMS Guidelines for Success

Choose to be:

*Respectful*

*Responsible*

*Safe*

## Classroom Rules (These are ways to help you be respectful, responsible, and safe in our classroom.)

1. Be polite
2. Be positive
3. Be productive
4. Be prompt
5. Be prepared

### Absences

If you miss English class, you have a couple different options. You can go to the website (http://mrskirkemokms@weebly.com), which will be updated regularly. Also, upon your return you could go to the “Absent—what you missed” folder. It will contain a sheet explaining what we did and what you need to do to get caught up with the class. After looking at the website and/or the binder, you can talk to me at an appropriate time if you have additional questions. I also can help you via email. It is your responsibility to make up for your absences in a timely way that does not detract from the class.

### Necessary Items for Class

**Supplies:** Our supplies are simple: one one-inch three ring binder, a pack of (5) dividers, lots of loose leaf college-ruled paper, and pens or pencils. **Agenda:** The student agenda that is purchased at the beginning of the school year will be an important organizing tool all year and must be brought to class each day.

**Book:** Students will be required to have a book that they have chosen for their independent reading ***in class at all times***. This book can be fiction or nonfiction, but it must be appropriate for the student’s reading level and substantial enough to use for writing and discussion assignments. Our library at KMS is extensive, and students will be able to use it for their selections. Books can also come from home or the public library. Students will be given a reading log to record minutes read per month. This is graded at the end of each week and goes in as a work ethic score. Students need to be reading at home to hit their reading goal each week.

*In order to be prepared for class each day, students should come with their English binder, a writing utensil, and their free-read book.*

##### **Student Questions and Extra Help**

I am available to give you extra help and to answer questions at various times other than during your class period. You can come to my room before school, as I am always there by 7:30. I also am at school until 3:30 on most days and would be happy to see you then! If those times don’t work, chat with me and we can arrange some other time for you to meet with me. Your success is my priority!

##### **Parental Contact**

Parents can always call the school to leave a message for me (751-3819). The best way to reach me, though, is by email (kirkemom@sd5.k12.mt.us). I read and respond to emails within 24 hours.

**How to Stay Connected to the Activities Going on in Class**

Students and parents are encouraged to visit the website daily for class updates and assignment due dates. There will also be several resources on the website for students and parents in regards to writing activities, reading expectations, and class projects. Please do stay connected on Powerschool as well. Students are encouraged to check Powerschool weekly for missing assignments or work scores that needs to be improved.

Again, welcome to English Language Arts on Team Discovery! I can’t wait to have an incredible year with you!

**Please sign the following page and have your parent or guardian sign the following page to show you have read and understand all of the expectations to be successful in English class. Bring it back tomorrow. Thank you!**

I have read all about Seventh Grade English Language Arts and know what is expected of students in this class.

#### Printed Student Name Student Signature

#### Printed Guardian Name Guardian Signature

**Parent Contact Information**

Phone:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_