

**Our SUCCESS Plan for
Mrs. Sauerbier's Accelerated Language Arts Class
2016 - 2017**

CONTACT INFO

Mrs. Laura Sauerbier

lrs2jc@bearworks.jackson.sparcc.org

330.830.8034 ext. 3162

<http://tinyurl.com/mr2016>

Email is the very best way to reach me as I check it compulsively! :)

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me. Students, if you have a question about something just email me and I will get back to you usually the same night! :)

HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL

1. Respect people, property, and ideas.
2. Give 100% effort 100% of the time.
3. BELIEVE.

COURSE GOALS

- ★ You will have the opportunity to grow as a communicator by :
 - Analyzing an author's writing to understand what they are communicating and **what they used** to communicate that message
 - Communicating effectively through speaking and writing by **knowing and using** the correct structure, word choice, literary device, etc. at the appropriate times.
 - Learning skills that are applicable to **any** text, your future endeavors, and real world, critical ways of thinking

GRADING

Important to know: Through small group instruction and creating engaging lessons that are tailored to YOUR INDIVIDUAL needs, it is YOUR responsibility to take the opportunities presented to you in class and use them to make you grow. I will lead you to water, encourage you to drink, but it is up to you to decide how much and in what way you will drink it. :)

Process 15% of grade: Any assignment that contributes to the process of learning a concept is considered process points.

Process points are earned through...

★ Homework	★ Journals	★ Writing assignments	★ Teacher conferences
★ Discussions	★ Debates	★ Peer conferences	★ Small group work, etc.

Product 85% of grade: *Product points should reflect how well a student has learned the concepts being assessed.* The process pieces help the student master the content in small pieces so when the time comes to be assessed the student can accurately demonstrate their understanding of the content.

Product points are earned through...

★ Assessments	★ Projects	★ Culminating activities	★ Choice book activities	★ Choice books
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Participation grade: These points will be earned weekly as we participate in collaborative discussions and activities.

Every TUESDAY you will participate in Socratic Seminar. You will bring a question or thoughtful idea you have about your book to seminar and we will have a structured discussion about it.

Being an active learner ensures you get the most out of your education. You legally have to be in school so why not get the most out of it?! Oh, and you're worth giving yourself all of your effort so make the most of your time here! I promise you'll be better for it. :)

Late Work:

Look, situations happen where work will be late because of some unforeseen circumstances. You are human, and life happens. JUST LET ME KNOW what is going on AS SOON AS YOU KNOW YOU HAVE A PROBLEM and we will work TOGETHER.

But please know for typical situations where time was mismanaged or work was forgotten, the following applies:

- ★ homework assignments turned in late will earn ½ credit
- ★ late projects, essays, major assignments will earn at least one letter grade lower
- ★ if an assignment is late because of a computer/printer problem, a note written and signed by a parent/guardian must be turned in on the day the assignment is due. Arrangements can be made to use a school computer.

Extra Credit:

- ★ Opportunities will be offered sporadically each 9 weeks
- ★ Extra credit cannot exceed 1% of your final grade
- ★ Do not email me or ask me to give you more extra credit or to change your grade (don't even think about it, sweet loves :))

What does my grade mean? If you consistently score 100% the tasks are too easy.

# & GRADE	WHAT IT MEANS	WHAT TO DO
5 = A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You got here with little to no help from me You have mastered the skill. WHOO HOO! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider what helped you learn the concept well. Try to explain it to someone at your house to see if they understand.
4 = B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You got here with help from me 2 - 3 times You definitely understand the skill, but made some small mistakes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Try to teach the concept to someone else. If questions arise, come ask me! It might help your understanding go from a B to an A! :)
3 = C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You got here with substantial help from me. You have an idea of what to do, but get stuck and still need a lot of work. 	CAUTION: You should come talk to me about what we can do to improve your learning
2 = D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You didn't use any of my help. You definitely don't understand this yet or you didn't give it your all. Ask for help NOW! 	<u>COME SEE ME!!</u>
1 = F	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>You never turned it in OR you didn't get help from me despite my insistence.</u> You are really, really lost. Ask for help NOW! 	<u>COME SEE ME!!</u>

INDIVIDUAL & WHOLE GROUP RESPONSIBILITY

INDIVIDUAL ACCOUNTABILITY (means you are responsible for your behavior choices)

First time:	Name on board	Warning
Second time:	One check	After School Detention
Third time:	Parents called	Friday detention & Student creates action plan to improve

****Names will be erased at the end of each day****

WHOLE CLASS ACCOUNTABILITY

- Begin each day with 5 points
- Class loses 1 point each time instruction has to stop
- Points at the end of the day will be added to points previously earned
- Once the class reaches 100 points students will earn a class choice reward period

REWARDS

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Praise (daily) | Whole class free time (random) |
| Sunshine notes home (random) | Extra credit (random) |
| Positive calls home (random) | Listen to music (daily) |
| Whole class reward when 100 points have been earned (approx. every 9 weeks) | |

The joy of learning (each day of the school year)

HOMework: Read. Read. READ!

Be prepared to have homework 2 – 3 days a week this year in language arts class. **In addition, you should also make time to read 15 – 20 minutes at home each night.**

Homework is due at the END of the day on the assigned due date.

Ongoing Homework:

Choice Books: 40 Book Challenge

Everybody reads here. Everybody is a reader. Whether you read or not is off the table, but what you read is your choice. Whatever you want. You pick. The books you choose will be used in class lessons.

Providing students with choice in what they read increases their engagement (Gambrell, Coding, & Palmer, 1996; Worthy & McKool, 1996; Guthrie & Wigfield, 2000).

The 40 Book Challenge is meant to expand your reading lives, not limit or define it. The idea is to read for VARIETY and then read for personal competition.

Book Requirements: (we will go over more specifics later)

1. You are interested in the age appropriate text.
2. You finish it within 3 weeks of starting it.

How will I know when I have additional homework?

Homework will be written on the board, SmartBoard, my homework hotline (330.834.8043 ext 3162), and my website. I will allow time at the beginning of each class period for you to write your assignments in your planner.

Huh?! Why so little homework?!

We believe in a limited amount of homework for the following reasons...

1. We spend an **intense 84 minutes in class working rigorously on necessary skills** your student needs to be successful. Having homework 2-3 days a week combined with 15 – 20 minutes per day independent reading at home, is often enough to reinforce these skills.

2. **The brain requires time for processing information.** Your child spends a great deal of time during the day learning a tremendous amount of information and are tested often to assess their understanding of that knowledge. If we assign homework in addition to the intensity they experience in the classroom, their brain won't be able to process the information as well as if they had time after school to fully process the content they did learn throughout the day. **In other words, practice quality work at a high level while in school and process that information at home.**

3. **Students need to be kids too!** During adolescence, kids are going through the 2nd largest growth spurt they have ever gone through in their short lives (1st largest is when they are a newborn) and they need time to participate in all the world has to offer. **Being exposed to a variety of experiences when their minds are growing this rapidly makes them better learners in the classroom as well as more competent students and people,** which is exactly what we want for them!

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

It is important you are aware of some exciting changes in the way we conduct our Language Arts classrooms here at JMMS. These changes are in response to our new state standards that will better prepare our students for success in the twenty-first century. All of our Language Arts teachers have been researching best practice strategies to meet the goals embedded in these new Common Core Standards that have been adopted by 48 states. According to the research, "Today's middle school students have to read and write more in school in order to be better prepared for the workplace and college demands." In addition to improving reading and writing skills, the standards also call for engaging and motivating students to read, think, and problem solve both independently and in collaborative peer groups.

SMALL GROUP INSTRUCTION: Personalizing YOUR Education

Research reveals that one way to motivate middle school students and reach learners at their level is by offering **choices** of reading material for both independent and instructional reading as well as choices for writing topics. This will be accomplished through the use of Reading and Writing Workshops that will allow for small group instruction, peer collaboration, and one-on-one instruction. While motivating our students to read and write, these workshops will also enable teachers to differentiate, or **personalize**, their instruction in order to meet the individual needs of our students and the demands of the rigor of the new Common Core Standards.

How Class Will Operate Daily

1. **Whole Group Lesson:** We will work together as a whole class on a skill, concept, or discussion.
2. **Work Time:** Based upon how you score on a pre-assessment, you will receive activities or tasks that are designed to push you to learn challenging content, yet I won't give you something to work on that is impossible to complete. You will start with fairly easy tasks that you may work on with some help from other students. However, you will work your way up to a challenging tasks that target YOUR needs and will usually be completed independently as a means of assessing just how much you have learned. PS You will have LOTS of choice this year! Woo hoo!! :)
3. **Small Group Lessons:** I will work with small groups of students while you continue to work through activities. These lessons are to help you improve in **specific skill areas based upon what YOU need.**

WEBSITES

My website contains important information that is updated frequently.

<http://tinyurl.com/mrss2016>

Need to get in your 20 minutes of reading each day? Take a look at these website for links to short, high interest articles and stories!

www.goodreads.com/list/show/43.Best_Young_Adult_Books

www.cantonrep.com/

www.timeforkids.com/