

September 2, 2009

Dear Students and Parents:

Welcome. I hope you and your family have had a safe and restful summer and that you're ready to embark upon an exciting adventure in literature. Let's get started on the right foot by first understanding my hopes and expectations for our reading classes:

SMART CLASSROOM: Many of my units of study will be presented through the use of my Smart Classroom. This consists of a Think Pad (laptop computer) and ceiling mounted projector. I have several Power Point slide shows that will enhance the presentation of materials.

BEHAVIOR: The environment in my classroom should always reflect our Christian values of love and respect. Please remember that there are always consequences to our behavior. When you strive to follow the guidelines of our faith, the reward is the satisfaction of achieving internal discipline. External discipline will be used when a student falls short of following the rules and expectations.

EMAIL & BLOG: The easiest way to access my email (Ngarrity@sjschool.net) and blog (<http://garrity.sjschool.net>) is through the St. John Fisher website. Feel free to send me emails with your questions or concerns. My blog will keep you informed about my Reading curriculum, Accelerated Reading deadlines, and other information.

HOMEWORK: Although there will be some written assignments, much of the Reading homework will consist of reading independently. All 7th and 8th Grade students are required to read an equivalent of five books per trimester, at least three of these books must be from the Accelerated Reading list. A detailed explanation of this requirement can be found on my SJF blog. Please encourage your child to read independently.

CURRICULUM: During the past several years at St. John Fisher, I have written and developed the 7th and 8th Grade Reading curriculum. Included in this two-year study are many magnificent works of literature written by numerous renowned authors. This literature-based curriculum is explained in detail on the front page of the Reading folder in the letter entitled **TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS**. Please take time to read it.

STUDY PACKETS: Because the SJF Junior High curriculum uses a variety of material that is not always found in textbooks, students will be given a study packet for each unit of study. Please read the letter on the second page of the Reading folder entitled **MATERIAL FOUND IN THE STUDY PACKET** and take the time to look through the **Fall** study packet to familiarize yourself with its contents.

I hope this note and the two pages found in the student Reading folder have been informative and helpful. I'm looking forward to a great school year. Please return the bottom portion of this letter to me as soon as possible. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. And please note that there is a space provided for parent email addresses so that I can keep in touch with you. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Garrity

Room # _____ Student # _____

- I have read the above letter and understand the rules and expectations for Reading. And I have taken time to look through the **Fall** study packet to familiarize myself with its contents.
- I have read the two pages in the Reading folder entitled **TO STUDENTS AND PARENTS** and **MATERIAL FOUND IN THE STUDY PACKET**.
- I understand that if a unit of study is lost or damaged, a replacement cost of \$5.00 will be charged.

Student Signature _____

Parent Signature _____ & email address _____

Parent Signature _____ & email address _____

Please check all boxes and sign and return the bottom portion of this letter by Thursday, September 3rd