

Saint John Fisher School
2020-2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to what I anticipate will be another exciting and successful year at Saint John Fisher School. I am eager to begin my third year at Saint John Fisher, and look forward to sharing this experience with your children. Through a variety of literary and nonfiction sources, students will learn the necessary reading strategies to grapple with and analyze complex texts. Students will be challenged to look beyond the surface to understand the purpose of literature and the important role it plays in all of our lives today. We will use essential questions to frame our thinking and find relevance in the selected text, while also exploring our own interests through a deep commitment to independent reading. This course will dive beyond mere comprehension and, instead, look to expand students' awareness and appreciation for literature through writing, research, and purposeful class discussion.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS

My expectations for this class are simple. As a class, we will work together to develop these expectations and define them for the purposes of our classroom.

Be Safe – Be Kind – Work Hard

Students are expected to uphold the conduct and behavior expected of all Saint John Fisher students. As part of a student-centered classroom, the choices that students make in their academics and their personal behavior can result in positive benefits or natural consequences. Enforcing the rules and policies outlined in the Saint John Fisher handbook leads to an effective and safe classroom environment where everyone is able to learn in a safe and effective environment.

GRADING

Student grades will consist of class participation, in-class assignments, independent reading, vocabulary study, essays, projects, tests, and quizzes. Grades will be weighted appropriately to provide an accurate and thorough evaluation of student achievement. A breakdown of weighted grades follows below. Please note that the following grading distribution is subject to change.

- * Homework: 15%
- * Vocabulary : 20%
- * Weekly Bellringers: 5%
- * Classwork and Participation: 10%
- * Projects/Essays: 20%
- * Tests and Quizzes: 30%

HOMEWORK

Homework can be expected at least three nights per week. Homework assignments consist of comprehension and vocabulary exercises, as well as any assignments that

are not completed during class time. To receive full credit, homework must be neat, organized, and complete. All questions are to be completed. Partial credit will not be awarded to incomplete homework assignments. Homework will either be checked in at the beginning of class or collected and graded for thorough review. Students who have not completed their homework will be subject to the late and missing work policy.

LATE AND MISSING WORK

Students are expected to complete all assignments on time. Students who fail to submit their homework on time will be given one additional day to complete the assignment. The completed assignment must be returned the following class day, where students may receive up to 50% of full credit. If not completed and returned the following day, the assignment will receive zero credit! Failure to complete four or more homework assignments within a given trimester will result in parent contact.

DAILY BELLRINGERS

This year our Bellringers will be a daily assignment. These will be answered in a specific notebook. Each day will deal with a new topic. Monday will be Root Words or Affix of the week, Tuesday will have a photograph that they will make an inference about, Wednesday will deal with grammar, Thursday will use a literary device, and finally Friday will deal with a famous quote.

CLASSWORK AND PARTICIPATION

Speaking and listening are a key component of the Common Core Standards. As such, it is important that all students develop the skills to actively participate and share their knowledge in class. Students are expected to participate in class discussions.

PROJECTS/WRITING

Each trimester, students can anticipate multiple projects and writing assignments. Projects and essays account for 20% of a student's final grade, so it is imperative that students work hard to meet all of the expectations as thoroughly outlined in my overview.

TESTS AND QUIZZES

Tests and quizzes will be administered frequently. The purpose of such assessments is to monitor student's understanding of the assigned texts. These tests will consist of questions related to comprehension, character identification, vocabulary, and literary terms and devices.

CURRICULUM

Students will be exposed to a variety of texts, including fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. We will be using different short stories, along with shorter texts such

as articles, essays, and a full length novel each trimester. These texts will challenge students to think critically as we learn different strategies for comprehension and continue to become more engaged readers and writers.

ABSENCES

Occasional absences throughout the year are to be expected; however, students are responsible for making up all late and missing work upon their arrival. Upon return, students should meet with Mrs. Scannell to turn in missing work and gather instructions for assignments they missed while absent. Any assignments that were collected on the day the student was absent should be turned in the day they arrive. Assignments not submitted upon a student's return to school will be subject to the late and missing work policy.

I look forward to working with you throughout the upcoming year. I am excited for all the opportunities that this year will provide. Please do not hesitate to email me with questions or to share potential concerns. Here's to an excellent year of reading and writing!

Mrs. Carole Scannell
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