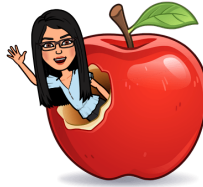


Welcome to Back to School Night
2025-2026
Mrs. Nicole Kirk
Co-teacher: Mrs. Caravella- grade 7
Mr. Cooke- grade 8



MP 1: Narrative Unit: we use short stories and poetry in class and kids read from independent novels at home.

September through the first week in November.

DISCLAIMER: This may roll into MP 2 bit. Not a big deal if it does.

7th-

- **Reading -**
Possible Short stories: Thank You, Ma'am, Seventh Grade, The Monkey's Paw, The Third Wish Harrison Bergeron, Seventh Grade, Examination Day. Incorporate Notice and Note Signposts as a reading strategy; plenty of note taking on plot
- **Literary Focus with all our reading for first MP-** point of view, mood, tone, how setting impacts plot, all plot elements, indirect characterization, theme, objective summary writing
- **Narrative (writing)** Since we learn about plot, we will be writing about our memories or imagined stories narratively. The focus is on personal voice, learning a lesson, and using setting and dialogue to move the narrative along. During this writing unit, I will focus on syntax and comma usage as the main focus of grammar instruction. We will also rewrite the ending of one of the short stories.
- **Grammar Focus:** dashes, hyphens, semi colons, and colons. Focus on writing compound and complex sentences

8th-

- **Reading -**
Short stories: The Diamond Necklace, The Most Dangerous Game, The Interlopers, Lamb to the Slaughter, The Landlady, the Elevator, The Tell-Tale Heart, The Raven (narrative poem), Fish Cheeks, the Veldt, A Sound of Thunder, The Lottery. Incorporate Signposts as reading strategy

- **Literary Focus with all our reading for first MP-** point of view, mood, tone, how setting impacts plot, all plot elements, indirect characterization, theme, writing an objective summary, how dialogue and setting impacts PLOT and ties to THEME
- **Narrative (writing)** Since we review plot and narratives, we will focus on personal voice, learning a lesson, and using setting and dialogue to move writing of a narrative along. During this writing unit, I will focus on syntax and comma usage as the main focus of grammar instruction. We will also rewrite the ending of one of the short stories if time permits.
- **Grammar Focus-** use of conjunctive adverbs for high-level sentences; review all punctuation as it pertains to higher-level sentence construction

COMMON CORE STANDARDS- it's good to know what your kids should be doing in school! They have this for ALL grades and all classes... but I'm only giving what I teach!

[English Language Arts Standards » Reading: Literature » Grade 8](#)

[English Language Arts Standards » Reading: Literature » Grade 7](#)

NOVELS - I try to do 2 novels a year, but please know, I pick and choose and change my plan from year to year. The novels will be chosen from this list:

Possible novels for 7th grade school year-

1. A Long Walk to Water
2. Among the Hidden
3. The Giver
4. Drums, Girls, and Dangerous Pie
5. Girl in the Green Sweater
6. Boy on the Wooden Box
7. Boy in the Striped Pajamas
8. Milkweed
9. Okay for Now
10. Under the Blood Red Sun

Possible novels for 8th grade school year- 1. Outsiders, 2. That Was Then. This is Now 3. The Pigman 4. Diary of Anne Frank 5. Night 6. All But My Life 7. Divergent 8. Scythe 9. Unwind 10. The Scourge 11. Hunger Games

IMPORTANT:

- **Genesis- conference sign-ups** in October for November conferences
- [Common Core State StandardS](#) (links given above by grade level)
- **Grading breakdown:** ASSESSMENTS/PROJECTS: 45%; QUIZZES: 35%; HW/CW participation:20%
- **LinkIt-** benchmark- not grades in grade book
- Some of the sites your children are exposed to throughout the year:
 - Commonlit (literature-based and nonfiction articles- great test prep),
 - Kahoot (ELA games)
 - Gimkit (AWESOME game/review of whatever I'm teaching)
 - Newsela (non fiction articles- current events)
 - Noredink (grammar)
 - ChompChomp.com (grammar)
 - Quizlet- often used to study for upcoming quiz or test

- **State Testing-** Spring
- **Genesis-** check the parent portal weekly or every other week (if you want!)
- **My Google Classroom page-** copies of notes and assignments up-to-date for kids if home absent
- **Writing Strategy for analysis:** I will be using clear evidence-based writing strategies for Response to Literature writing that students will use in ALL classes. Narrative, persuasive and argumentative strategies are broken down into manageable segments for the kids.
- **Reading Strategy:** [Notice and Note](#) signposts.
- Grading Criteria/Honor roll/High honor roll, Academic Awards
-

Grading System/Academic Awards 2025-2026