

IRWIN ALTMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL 172

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Dear Future 7th Grade Parent/Guardian:

As Middle School 172 prepares for September 2026, the ELA department would like to share the first HMH unit of study with our families. As part of our opening English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum, we will start the year with a unit titled ***Reality Check***. In this unit, students will challenge their perceptions of reality. The texts we will read center on the Essential Question “***What can blur the lines between what’s real and what’s not?***” This open-ended question is intended to spark thoughtful discussion. You may wish to explore this question with your child at home as well.

Unit 1 includes:

- **Short Reads** - online independent reading selections in a variety of genres. These include poetry, short stories, and an informational text.
- **A Long Read** - a novel related to the unit theme and Essential Question.
- **A Unit Writing Task** - writing an informative essay based on the selection of texts read in class and the Essential Question.

We encourage reading over the summer and recommend the following titles which connect to the Essential Question for the first unit of study:

- Ø My Life as an Ice Cream Sandwich by Ibi Zoboi (830L),
- Ø Monster by Walter Dean Myers (670L)
- Ø Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin (810L)
- Ø Planet Middle School by Nikki Grimes (680L)

Click [HERE](#) to receive information and links to Summer Reading programs and to access ebook titles for the above texts and/or other engaging books you want to read this summer. Click [HERE](#) to view slides on how to access and use this digital library.

Please see the suggested supply list for incoming 7th grade students.

- A pack of Pens, Pencils, and Highlighters
- One Binder (1.5 or 2 inch) with one tab/divider for each subject
- One folder per subject (If inserted into binder, they can serve as dividers)
- A pair of earbuds compatible with your DOE device
- A ream of filler paper and computer paper
- A box of tissues

We look forward to meeting you in September!

Sincerely,

Seventh Grade ELA Team