September, 2016

**Welcome to Walker Middle School!**

Materials Needed

* 3-ring binder
* Notebook paper
* Dividers for each class
* Blue/black ball point pens
* Pencils
* A silent pencil sharpener
* Writer’s Notebook

I am very excited you are in my class, and I want to make this a great year. Here is some information I hope you will find helpful…

**Always be prepared:**

The school provides a planner/calendar. We will fill it out together every Monday, so be sure you have it in your binder! Remind your family to check this when you get home!

Along with your planner, you will also need to bring your binder, Writer’s notebook, and the book you are reading to class each day. Just like I cannot leave the house without my purse, you should not leave the house without your backpack!

And always, you will want to keep your graded work that I hand back to you in your binder. Just in case there is a mistake (I am human, so this could happen ☺)…

**Reading Workshop:**

Gary Paulson says, “Read like a wolf eats.” The more you read, the more you will improve! Reading even helps your writing! (Actually, reading and writing go hand in hand!) So…**there is reading homework every** **night**. Why? Frequent, voluminous reading leads to skilled, passionate, and habitual readers. The great thing about this class is that you get to choose your book! There are so many great titles out there, and I cannot wait to see which one you choose first! You will have a reading log to record your reading, and I will check it to see what fabulous books you are into. You will also keep a reader’s notebook that will be kept here in class. This is where you will practice comprehension strategies, vocabulary, authentic reading, purposeful reading, writing, and speaking, and critical thinking skills.

**Writer’s Workshop:**

We will write every day in a workshop setting. Through the use of mentor texts, mini-lessons, conferences, and daily writing in the writer’s notebooks, we will live writerly lives. We will study writing. We will study authors. We will explore multiple genres. I encourage you to share your current writing drafts and entries with your parents.

Just like you have reading homework, you will also have writing homework. Each week you will be required to write a 1-page entry in your Writer’s NB. There will be a handout with ideas/topics that you will be getting soon! Just remember, these are due every Friday!

Your Writer’s NB is where you will write. I encourage you to pay attention to the little things that most people walk right by. Take notes, jot down ideas, write poems – use your Writer’s NB to keep your thoughts and dreams.

**Miscellaneous:**

It is your responsibility to find out what work was missed if you are absent. Call the school or e-mail your teachers for homework if you are gone for more than one day. You can also check my website! We sure will miss you!

Grades are posted in class each Monday, so you can check your progress and note any missing assignments. You can also check your grade in each class on your home computer any time you want using our Student Vue or Parent Vue programs. This is a great way for you to keep up with those grades. Please see the information below regarding how “work habits” and “citizenship” are graded.

**Parent Expectations: Definitely show this to your parents!**

* Check your child’s planner and binder for organization at least weekly please!
* Provide a quiet place for your child to do nightly reading homework.
* Know there is reading homework every night!
* Talk to your child about the book he or she is reading.
* Ask to see your child’s current writing piece, or peruse their writer’s notebook together. Ask about what we’re doing in workshop.

I know the transition to middle school can be a little overwhelming. That’s what I am here for! Please let me know if you have any questions. I cannot wait to read and write alongside you this year!

Thank you,

Marla Pasterick

6th Grade Teacher

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