

Welcome to Curriculum Night! 😊

8th Grade
Language Arts
Mrs. Irvin

I apologize for not being here with you tonight. I had a prior engagement. Please read through this information and feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you and have a wonderful night!

Communication is Key!

☉ Feel free to contact me at any time, for any reason, concerning your child.

- ☉ krystil.wade@cms.k12.nc.us
- ☉ <http://mrsirvin04.weebly.com>



☉ *If you have not yet written me the letter about your son/daughter, please do so as soon as you can!*

About Me & My Classroom



- **Background** I graduated with an English degree from Furman University. I started teaching at Crestdale straight out of college and haven't looked back. This is my 14th year at Crestdale. I absolutely love this school and community. Teaching is truly what I feel called to do.
- **Students are people, too!** This is my teaching philosophy. My goal is to treat each student as an individual and not simply a body filling a seat. I care about my students beyond the test scores they will receive at the end of the year.



• **RESPECT** is an integral part of my classroom. We respect ourselves, each other, and the learning process.



THE BASICS



- × **Supplies**- Students will need a binder or spiral, composition notebook, paper, pencil/pens, and sticky notes
- × **Technology**- We will use Chromebooks in class, and students will often need access to technology outside of class. If this is an issue, please just let me know and we will make other arrangements.
- × **Make-up & Late work**- Students are responsible for getting assignments they have missed due to absence. They have 5 days to complete the work. Late work will receive a 10 point penalty for each day late.
- × **Work folders**- I keep most student work in folders in my room. If you ever want to see a test/ paper, etc., simply ask for me to send it home with your child. I have found through the years that sometimes I want to reference previous work, and if I send everything home, it inevitably gets lost, thrown away, etc. Students will receive their complete work folders at the end of the year.



READING EXPECTATIONS

Standard

- × *The Giver* by Lois Lowry (2nd quarter)
- × *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson (3rd quarter)
- × **Literature Circles** (4th quarter)

Honors

- × *Animal Farm* by George Orwell (2nd quarter)
- × *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee (3rd quarter)
- × **Literature Circles** (4th quarter)

In addition to these assigned readings, students should be reading on their own time throughout the year. They should be reading books of their interest at or right above their reading level. I am happy to discuss reading levels (based on previous testing) with you or your students.

The Writing Curriculum

- **Response to Literature (Evaluative)**- We will respond in writing to what we read. A lot. This may be something informal like an exit ticket, something interactive like a group writing activity, or something formal like an essay. Writing is a crucial part of the learning process.
- **Argumentative**- In 8th grade, we stress argumentative writing and the process of forming and supporting your opinion with evidence. We will incorporate research into this process, as well.
- **Expressive**- Students will express themselves in daybooks (which is a weekly grade). This is the time for them to write to me about whatever they'd like without fear of critique. I want them to learn to love writing just as a way to express themselves. They will also respond to writing prompts throughout the year.
- **Grammar Lessons/Quill**- We will practice grammar skills to help prepare students for high school. Quill.org is a site that provides support in this area, and students will have time to work in that program periodically.



A typical day in Mrs. Irvin's class...

- **Warmup**- This will be either a writing prompt or a grammar activity.
- **Vocabulary**- Students focus on various aspects of one word a week: definition, roots/prefixes, word associations, visual representations, sentence using the word in context, etc.
- **Text**- We may read together, in groups, individually, or with audio support. This varies based on what the students need, the complexity of the text, and the time allotted. But almost every day, we will be reading a text.
- **Task(s)**- Students will respond to what we've read in some way. I try to use this time to give them the opportunity to learn from one another instead of just me. However, I am always circulating and available for support.
- **Closure**- This may be in the form of a quick discussion of what we've covered, an exit ticket, or some other brief assessment. It's a way to tie together our lesson for the day.
- Almost every day include **discussion**. I like to hear from my students to see what they're thinking. I want them to become comfortable sharing their ideas, as I believe this is a crucial life skill. They also learn so much more when they are able to hash out their thoughts with others so they can be stretched and challenged.



Tips for success...



- Remind students to plan ahead
 - Study IN ADVANCE for tests
 - PACE for upcoming assignments
- Check agendas
 - Homework should always be written down
- Encourage positive attitudes and full effort
 - All I ask of my students is the absolute BEST they can give
- Tutoring Tuesday morning at 8:15



Thank You! ☺

- If you ever have the urge to donate to our classroom throughout the year, feel free. Books, Glade oil plug-ins, supplies (especially tissues and hand sanitizer), etc. are always welcome. But don't feel obligated! ☺
- You have trusted me with some of your greatest treasures for the year. Thank you! I look forward to getting to know each and every one of them and am excited about a successful year! ☺
