

CLASSROOM NEWS

8TH GRADE ELA WITH MRS. GILLESPIE



CLASS INFORMATION

by Mrs. Gillespie

Dear 8th Grade English Language Arts Families,

During Marking Period 1, our class had the opportunity to gain full access to online learning platforms in order to enhance skills taught in the classroom. The goal of our class during Marking Period 1 was to familiarize ourselves with the organization and structure of various online platforms and begin practicing skills. Now that we've had the opportunity to acclimate ourselves with logins and layouts, we will begin to engage, track, and complete assignments in the classroom. Class time will be dedicated to both collaborative skill practice as well as independent skill practice.

Some of the online platforms we utilize in the classroom include Flocabulary, Sadlier Vocabulary, BrainPop, Newsela, and Readworks Digital. Username and login information are located on the "ELA Online Resources" tab of our class web-page. Below, you will find an overview of what each program has to offer. I will use the information provided during our skill practice to strengthen skills and help your child set and track individualized goals.

Reminder/s
Homework is posted
on our class web-
page every Monday.
Please check the
page often for
updates.



Contact Information

The best way to reach me is through email at KGillespie@wtps.org. Please feel free to reach out at any time and I will get right back to you. Thank you for your continued partnership!

ONLINE RESOURCES

Newsela curates the most relevant and interesting nonfiction content, including daily news articles, famous speeches, primary sources, and biographies. Every article is written at 5 different reading levels, making it easy for an entire class to read the same content at a level that's just right for each reader. With Newsela, classroom teachers and administrators are able to check for understanding with quizzes and customizable writing prompts. Readers can also monitor their own progress and performance on Newsela.

ReadWorks provides the largest, highest-quality library of curated nonfiction and literary articles in the country, along with reading comprehension and vocabulary lessons, formative assessments, and teacher guidance. Most importantly, everything ReadWorks does is based on proven cognitive science research, not unproven academic theory.

NoRedInk's mission is to help all students harness the power of language. They use high-interest content and generate questions from each student's favorite celebrities, hobbies, TV shows, and friends. Blended learning is used to help each student at the appropriate level -learners at their own pace. Adaptive technology is used to adjust questions based on what students get right or wrong, drilling down to their underlying misconceptions. When learners get stuck, we show them tutorials that help them correct their mistakes and keep going.

Sadlier Vocabulary- Mastery of vocabulary words promotes word consciousness and, together with practice in vocabulary strategies, leads to improved reading and writing skills and improved performance on high-stakes standardized tests. Our units of study focus student attention on 10 words at a time and practice with those words in a variety of contexts.

Writing

Our current writing focus is Narrative writing. Students will incorporate sensory details, dialogue, transitions and expanded moments in their writing. After Narratives, students will be introduced to Informational Writing.

Teacher's Note

I look forward to an excellent second marking period with your child. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at Kgillespie@wtps.org.

Warm Regards,
Mrs. Kathleen Gillespie
8th Grade ELA Teacher
Orchard Valley Middle
School

