



## Contact Information:

**Ms. Melissa Conway**  
Room 306

**Email:**  
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**Phone:**  
620-227-6532, ext. 1022

**Availability:** 30 minutes after school, through email, and by appointment

**I am here to help**, so please do not hesitate to call, email, or visit me if you have questions or need any assistance.

Please have your parents (or yourself, with their permission) sign up for **Remind** to keep updated on class announcements!



Schedule, Updates, and Announcements are also posted on the school website.

*“God has not called me to be successful. He called me to be faithful.” – Mother Teresa*

## Middle School English Language Arts Information:

*Dear Students,*

*I am very excited to begin this school year with you! The quote above from Saint Teresa of Calcutta is our classroom motto, and I want to explain (or re-explain) why:*

*This year, as much as I want you to be successful, I would rather have you be faithful. When most people think of success, they think of achievement. **I am not saying that I don't want you to earn achievements or to get good grades, but that I want you to strive for that success AND much more!***

*Faithfulness, to me, goes above and beyond success. **I want our goal to be faithfulness because it requires effort, dedication, perseverance, honesty, and respect.** As a teacher, I am trying to not only be faithful to God and His Church, but also to be faithful to each of you. I want to support and help each of you be the best you can be. As students, I hope and pray that you not only strive for faithfulness to God and His Church, but also that you strive to be faithful in your classes, your homework, and with each other. Also, if you struggle, I want you to know that your determination and endurance is more valuable to me than your success. You will make mistakes, but you can learn from them and keep going. Above all, your dignity and worth lies in God, not in your grades. So, with God's help, let's try to be faithful! As it states in Philippians 4:13, “I have the strength for everything through him who empowers me.”*

## Overall Objective and Description:

My overall objective for these English Language Arts classes is for students to develop the critical skills they need to

- better understand and interpret a **variety** of texts
- make claims using solid textual evidence
- summarize information using the most important details
- express themselves clearly through writing
- become lifelong readers and learners

## Procedures:

- Students will come into class quietly.
- Cell phones or other electronic devices should not be out. They should already have been given to your homeroom teacher. I will let you know if you need to get out your Chromebook.
- Students will be seated at their assigned desk when the bell rings and will immediately start working on the posted activity quietly.
- At the end of class, students will pick up any returned work left in their student folders.

## Consequences:

- Breaking rules, bullying others, or disrupting class results in:
  - Warning (verbal or visual)
  - Demerits (as outlined in the school policy)
  - Detention
  - Referral to Administration
- **Following the rules results in a positive environment ☺ and classroom rewards (TBA).**

## Grading Scale:

94-100%	<b>A</b>
86-93%	<b>B</b>
78-85%	<b>C</b>
70-77%	<b>D</b>
Below 70	<b>F</b>

## Distribution:

My gradebook is based on a points system. Please note, however, that tests, projects, and writing assignments will be worth more than daily assignments. You will also have more time to complete these tasks.

## Plagiarism Policy:

Plagiarism is stealing another person's ideas and using it as your own. Students will receive a zero on an assignment or paper that is plagiarized. Students will also receive a zero if they caught cheating on a test. Each zero for cheating will be reported to the student's parents, and the student will serve a detention. It is to your benefit to be honest and not cheat!

## Late or Missing Work Policy:

I will give due dates for all assignments. For most assignments, if students miss the original due date, they can still complete the assignments for up to **86% credit by the end of each novel or story unit. I will not accept any missing assignments past the end of each corresponding unit.**

**Certain projects and writing assignments will NOT be accepted late. These assignments (speeches, essays, research projects, etc.) will be announced in advance, and require multiple days of in-class and outside work. As such, they must be turned in by the original due date.** Students should speak with me before the due date on these assignments if they believe they may need more time to finish.

## Building Community:

Students will be expected to treat one another with dignity and respect. We will build community through discussions and group projects. We will also strive to give constructive criticism when reviewing classmates' writing.

## Attendance:

Please see the handbook for the attendance policy. If you miss a class, it is YOUR responsibility to make up the work. If you are gone for extracurricular activities, please check with me **before** you leave.

## Expectations:

- Try your best.
- Make mistakes – and revise.
- Read often.
- Write with detail.
- Have a good attitude.
- Be respectful.
- Strive for holiness!

## Rules

- Turn in completed assignments on time.
- Come to class on time, prepared, with all supplies and assignments.
- Work when you are supposed to.
- Participate in discussion by raising your hand
- Follow directions immediately.

## Materials

**EVERY DAY you should bring:**

- **3-Ring Binder**
- **Pencil, pen, and highlighters**
- **Notebook paper**
- **Student Planner**
- **Chromebook**
- **Assigned novel or reading**

