



Welcome!

Dear Students and Families,

I am so excited to start a new school year here at Linden Middle School. I look forward to getting to know you and working with you throughout the year.

Outside of school, I enjoy reading and cooking. This summer I competed in three Sprint distance triathlons, and I will be giving the Olympic distance a go on September 10th. I am a graduate of Michigan State. You can often find me cheering on my team or one of my own children's!

As an English teacher, my goals are to help students appreciate literature and writing and guide them in learning the skills necessary to be successful readers and writers at their grade level. Also, through the literature and writing that will be covered in class, students will improve their communication skills, enhance their self-esteem, and grow as active learners. These skills are important and are needed for success in school and life after the classroom.

I will help your student meet these goals by setting high expectations and doing everything in my power to ensure that all students meet those expectations. Please communicate openly with me through email, a phone call, or a personal meeting. Open communication helps us ensure success.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Michele Packard

mpackard@lindenschools.org 810-591-0755

Materials needed: Due September 12th

- *1- 1 1/2 inch binder with inside pockets labeled with your name and Language Arts on both the front and spine
 - *5 tab dividers labeled Writer's Secrets, Vocabulary, Reading Response, Proofreading, and Returned Work
 - *1- 3 hole punched folder labeled Language Arts Homework
 - *1- 3 hole punched 1 subject notebook labeled **Reading Response**
 - *1- composition notebook labeled with your name and **Writer's Notebook** on the front cover (placed in a binder pocket)
 - *student planner
 - *pencils in a binder pencil pouch
 - *1 box of Kleenex (appreciated)
- Electronic spellchecker/dictionary/thesaurus devices are welcome in class (easily kept in a pencil pouch for three ring binders).

Grading Scale

Over 100%=A+	79-77%=C+
100-93%=A	76-73%=C
92-90%=A-	72-70%=C-
89-87%=B+	69-67%=D+
86=83%=B	66-63%=D
82-80%=B-	62-60%=D-

Grading

Grades will be configured based on weighted percentages as follows:

- Writing assignments- 30%
- Reading tests/quizzes- 30%
- Grammar/Writer's Secrets- 20%
- At Home Reading Assignments (see below)- 10%
- Vocabulary- 10%

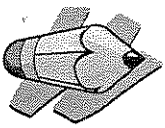
Assignments such as tests, projects, and writing assignments will be given higher point values. You may access the district's online grading tool, StandardsScore, at <http://login.clihome.com/> to check in on your points earned and overall grade. Assignments may be graded for one or all of the following: thoroughness, accuracy, effort, thoughtfulness, and clarity. Please always do your assignments to the BEST of your ability and ALWAYS ask for help if you need it!

At Home Reading

Students develop significantly as readers through independent and self-selected reading. Seventh and eighth grade students will have required reading homework each week. Students will be assigned novels and short reading selections outside of class and assessed on their knowledge of the material. Look for both weekly and long-term assignments. Use Parent Web to stay informed of assignments and deadlines.

Homework and Make-up Work Policy

- *Assignments not completed in class will become homework and will be due the next day when class begins for full credit.
- *In order for you to learn the skills necessary to be successful, long-term writing assignments will be accepted late with a 30% grade reduction. Late homework and daily work will receive a 50% reduction. Missing work will receive 0%.
- *Lunch detention may be assigned to students with chronic late/missing work. After-school tutoring is an option for work completion or test/quiz make-ups.
- *Don't put off long-term assignments. You will still be required to take quizzes and tests even if you missed class the day before the test or quiz since you had the study materials prior to that day.



Absent work

*It is your responsibility to copy the daily agenda into your planner and check the make-up work bin to collect the worksheets you missed.

*You have the same number of days to make up your work as you were absent.

*You will be expected to take a test or quiz if you have been made aware of the date in advance and had ample time to study, even if you missed the day before.

Parent Web

Look for daily agendas and homework posted on Parent Web.

Classroom Rules:

1. Follow directions the first time they are given.
2. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
3. Respect yourself, others, and all school property. Respect expectations include polite behavior, appropriate responses, hand-raising, and active listening.
4. Be responsible. Responsibility expectations include being prepared for class, being prompt to class and with assignments, using your planner, and participating.
5. Follow school rules in and out of the classroom.

Consequences:

Students who choose not to follow the rules, act responsibly, or show respect will be given a verbal warning, moved to a new seat, and/or be removed from class. Serious or consistent offenses will result in parental contact.

Assignment #1

I have read the classroom rules, procedures, and policies and will be responsible for following them in Language Arts.

Student signature _____

Parent signature _____

Due Friday, September 9th

Curriculum Highlights

Both 7th and 8th graders should look forward to a year filled with excitement! We all have our own unique voices. Each voice will be valued, as I trust that you have important things to say about the literature that we will read and the writing we will produce. Together we will study the elements of quality reading and writing of other authors in order to improve ourselves as readers and writers. Expect to participate by presenting your hard work and respond thoughtfully to the work of others.

Common text across grade levels: *The Language of Literature*

7th grade-Poetry, Mystery, Mythology, Memoir, Short Stories, Non-fiction, City Research Project

8th grade-Poetry, Historical Fiction, Realistic Fiction, Biography, Non-fiction, Science Fiction