Welcome to eighth grade resource language arts! I am very excited to have you in my classroom. We are going to accomplish great things over the course of this school year. This handout details some of the most important information you need to know about my classroom in order to be successful. Please take your time and read the information I have provided. This handout must be kept in your language arts notebook, as it will be helpful to you all year. If you have any questions or concerns right now, or throughout the school year, please do not hesitate to come see me or send me an e-mail. I hope you have a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Warner-Andrews

**SUBJECT MATTER**

During the eighth grade year, we produce a variety of written work including descriptive, narrative, expository, and persuasive pieces, and informal writings. As we embark on producing each piece of writing in new and creative ways, we will look at examples of each as models and guides for our own writing. Throughout the year, we will focus on the writing process, vocabulary study, grammar, communication skills, and how to use research appropriately across all academic classes. Additionally, we will be reading a variety of written work including novels, short stories, plays, and non-fiction informational texts to further understand the relationship between reading and writing. We will concentrate on reading comprehension, the development of plot, critical thinking skills, and the various purposes for reading.

**COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS**

This year the language arts teachers at Louisville Middle School have adopted the Common Core State Standards and will integrate them into the middle school language arts curriculum. The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. (Source: <http://www.corestandards.org/>)

**MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES**

Students are expected to arrive to class with all necessary materials and supplies each day. The following list details materials and supplies most frequently used in language arts class throughout the school year:

Homework folder, charged Chromebook, Notebook paper, Pens, Highlighters, Pencils with erasers

**CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT**

At Louisville Middle School, every student has the RIGHT to receive an education in the safest environment possible. In order to ensure such an environment, the administrators, teachers, and staff must develop and enforce not only rules, but consequences as well. My classroom rules reflect my expectations for student behavior every time you walk through my door.

MS. WARNER-ANDREWS CLASSROOM RULES

1). Respect everyone and everything around you.

2). Come to class on time with all necessary materials ready to participate and learn.

3). Follow directions the first time they are given.

4). Raise your hand and wait for permission to speak.

5). Stay in your seat until the bell rings. I dismiss you; the bell does not!

**STUDENT BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS AND CONSEQUENCES**

Consequences are what result when a person makes a conscious CHOICE to break a school-wide or classroom rule. While your teachers understand that everyone makes mistakes, we must also foster a classroom environment conducive to learning and safety. Failure to follow classroom rules such as being tardy, disruptive, and/or being disrespectful to students or staff will result in consequence marks. Furthermore, chair tipping, throwing items, using inappropriate language, exhibiting off-task behavior, not having required materials, failure to have textbook/novel, and/or not returning requested forms or signatures will result in a consequence mark.

**GRADING:**

**AR (Accelerated Reader)**

The AR grade is approximately 15% of the final ELA lab grade (usually 25 to 30 points). You will receive a **teacher-assigned goal** based on your Star Reading Test results. The goal will include both the amount of points and the reading level.

**Tests and quizzes**

Study and learn the skills and concepts discussed in class. Some reading tests will involve reading new material (not something we discussed in class) and applying the skills we have learned. For example, we might read several poems and study figurative language. The test may ask you to identify and analyze the figurative language in a new poem.

**Projects**

Projects help to foster creativity and often serve as a cumulating assignment. We will use various projects to summarize what we have learned.

**In Class Work**

In class participation is very important. Students will be responsible and graded on class participation and independent lab work.

**NOVEL ASSIGNMENTS/THEMES**

We will follow a different theme each nine weeks and read at least 2-3 novels/short stories per theme.

First Nine Weeks: **PERSERVERANCE/CHARACTER** Novel: Freak the Mighty-Rodman Philbrick, Nonfiction articles, Poetry, Tolerance unit, Narrative Writing

Second Nine Weeks: **QUEST FOR JUSTICE/Mystery/Loss**: Tell Tale Heart-Edgar Allan Poe, Hoot-Carl Hiaasen, Written in Bone- Sally Walker

Third Nine Weeks: **POWER OF LOVE/Technology**: Midsummer Night’s Dream-Shakespeare, 5 People You Meet in Heaven-Mitch Albom, Poetry, Nonfiction articles, Argument, Points of View

Fourth Nine Weeks: **SURVIVAL**: Lord of the Flies- William Golding, short stories, Research Unit

**Homework & Assignments**

Most homework and assignments will be done in class. (Keep in folder in room or will be on chromebook) Students may be responsible to complete homework which may deal with predicting, questioning, making connections, tracking characters and learning vocabulary. We will be working on these weekly to increase reading skills and comprehension. Students must also read AR books as much as possible. We will read at least 1 novel each nine weeks that will count as for AR points.

***RETURN ONLY THIS PAGE\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\****

*\*Visit my* ***webpage*** *for activities & assignments, especially if you are absent:* [*www.wandrews20@weebly.com*](http://www.wandrews20@weebly.com)*. You will find it on LMS homepage under STAFF. Feel free to email me anytime with any questions or concerns. I’m looking forward to a great year!*

**Contact**

*Let's work together for a great year! Please contact me with any questions or concerns.*

**Email: kandrews@lepapps.org**

I recognize the great importance and responsibility that goes along with my job. I will work diligently to provide a learning environment where all students can succeed.

By below, the student and parent/ guardian acknowledge that they have read the guidelines for Ms. Warner-Andrews class and will agree to the procedures outlined in this document.

Student signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Parent/Guardian Contact:*

*Email:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Text/number:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*