September 6, 2018

Hello! My name is Mrs. Durant. Welcome to 7th Grade ELA! I know this is going to be a very successful year for everyone as we build upon past learning. I enjoy being a part of the BMC school community and look forward to working with each of you.

Please read through all of the information provided in this packet, initial and sign where asked, and fill in the "Getting to Know You" sheet. Please return your signature (the bottom of this sheet) and the "Getting to Know You" paper.

Once a student returns the completed pages, he/she will receive a 5-bonus point coupon that may be redeemed on **ANY** assignment.

This letter and all of the information found in this packet can be found on our class website. Please feel free to visit the website often with your mobile device or computer for up-to-date information and assignments! The class website is located at www.MrsDurantELA.weebly.com. We also use Google Classroom. Please ask your child to login and view what we are doing on a regular basis.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Durant

**PLEASE detach and RETURN by Monday, September 10th**



**Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Please initial that you have read or completed each of the attached sheets.**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** I read the Parent Letter **Parent**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I read the Student Letter

**Student**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I know how to get to the class website

**Parent/Student**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I read "Our ELA Class" Information Sheet

**Parent/Student**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ I filled out the "Getting to Know You" Sheet

**Parent**



**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** I read theSupply List

**Parent/Student**

**Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Dear Parent or Guardian:**

 **Hello. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and express my excitement about working with your child this year. My name is Mrs. Melissa Durant and I am going to be your child's ELA teacher. I love teaching English because I care deeply about each of my students and have a true passion for reading and writing.**

 **Although I am consistently learning new things, I have a great deal of experience in the classroom. I am enthusiastic in the classroom; thus creating an atmosphere for learning to take place in a variety of ways. I address the interests of the students while bridging their interests with the curriculum. It is important for information to be presented so students can see the relevance of the curriculum. My passion is for my students to feel welcomed in my class and to feel at ease to be themselves, while respecting others. I anticipate a very successful year.**

 **Additional information about my class, the rules and expectations, and assignments can be found on my classroom website (http://www.MrsDurantELA.weebly.com). The classroom website will be updated weekly. You can also ask your child to log into their Google account to access our Google Classroom where you can also see more updates. Please check it often.**

 **Also note that if you ever have any comments, questions or concerns, I am available for phone calls and meetings (by appointment please) each day before school. To schedule a meeting, you may contact me via email at mdurant@bmcsd.org or (518)529-7342 ext. 107-1232.**

** I am very excited to be working with your child and look forward to meeting you too. I welcome questions or comments, and am looking forward to a great year!**

**Sincerely,**

**Melissa Durant**

**7th & 8th Grade English Teacher**

**Yearbook Teacher**

**Modified Volleyball Coach**

Dear Students,

Welcome to ELA! I anticipate a great year ahead of us. In order to be sure we are going to have an awesome year together there are a few things I need you to know.

**Classroom Rules and Expectations**

-Respect yourself

-Respect others

-Respect property

-This is a cell phone free classroom

-No food/No drink

Exception: Water

(See school policy)

-Please do not touch the teacher's desk or computer

-Please sign out any classroom or classroom library books

-Take a pass to leave the classroom & sign out please

-Late? Fill out a late slip

-Be patient

-Do your best

-Learn! Grow! Read!

**Ensuring Safety and Fairness**

Please keep your body and possessions to yourself, especially if your actions could prevent another student from concentrating.

Please keep all slanderous remarks, prejudiced comments, and inappropriate language to yourself. Practice your most precise language in this room. Here we practice excellence.

Please do your own work (unless I have said to work with a partner). **Plagiarism results in zeroes for all students involved and may constitute a parent/teacher conference.**

Failure to abide by these rules will result in an appropriate consequence or plan.

Please note that I will further explain these rules in class.

I may also add to or change these throughout the school year.

I believe we are going to have a great year together. Please ask

questions when you need to and I will be sure to answer them.

There are many ways to earn bonus points and rewards.

Keep your ears and eyes open in class to find out how.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Durant

**Our ELA Class**

Here is some information on what we will be doing in class this year.

**Independent Reading Program:** Independent reading will be a significant component of our class. Students need to have their reading materials in class each day! On Fridays, students will be hosting a book club discussion in class based on the book they are reading with their assigned group. I would like to see students reading at least 3 days a week for 20 minutes each day, however, depending on the novel students may need to put more time into reading independently. Students will be required to complete individual and group assignments per quarter in their book club packets (there is a group packet that stays at school and an independent packet that will go home and come to school on Fridays). He/she will also need to document reading time in a log within this packet. Each marking period, students will need to complete a group presentation and a “powergraph” among other materials throughout the quarter. Additionally, I will informally or formally conference with students on the progress of their work. Sometimes I may just check to be sure students are completing the reading assignment. Being a part of the Independent Reading Book Club will be a big responsibility. Parents should check that their child is reading. Please show interest in what your child is reading by asking about their independent reading book.

**Vocabulary Quizzes:** One way to increase vocabulary, improve spelling, and help solve unfamiliar words, is to learn new words that appear in the texts we are reading. Students will be given new vocabulary words throughout the week. Most Wednesdays, there will be a vocabulary/spelling quiz to assess student learning. Students will also need to complete weekly vocabulary cards. Parents should see a pack of vocabulary cards regularly. Students will also have the opportunity to receive bonus points on these quizzes by completing flash cards.

**Literary Terms & Poetic Devices Booklet:** Throughout the school year, we will be focusing on the tools authors use to convey meaning. Students will have many opportunities to locate these terms and devices within text, as well as use these tools in his/her own writing. This booklet will be very important for students to keep all school year.

**Research Project:** We will complete a culminating research project based on someone who has shown true GRIT. Students will pick someone they believe to have shown GRIT and complete a research paper based on how that person was gritty using at least three sources in MLA format. Students will go through the writing process to ensure a decent grade on this research paper. They will be using google docs to type their paper.

**Reading & Writing:** Beyond the independent reading students will be doing, we will be reading novels in class, as well as shorter reading selections. Additionally, students will be keeping a writing portfolio of writing pieces modeled after or in response to some of the reading that we will be doing in class. Students will be using the "ACE IT" writing initiative and the "powergraph" formula to write responses in my class.

Frequently, there will be homework and projects that will extend your child’s learning. Your support is greatly appreciated.

**Possible books we will read this year as a class:**

Abduction by Peg Kehret

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

Z for Zachariah by Robert C. O’Brien

Phoenix Rising by Karen Hesse

Flipped by Wendelin Van Draanen

Holes by Louis Sachar

My Brother Sam is Dead by James Lincoln Collier & Christopher Collier

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen

**Parents, please look at this list and let me know if you have any concerns.**

**Grading**

Classwork/Bell Ringer = 20%
Homework = 20% **(Please see middle school homework policy.)**

Quizzes = 20%
**Tests/Essays/Projects** **= 40%**

Thank you for your time! I encourage you to visit our class website for additional information at http://www.MrsDurantELA.weebly.com. You can also view my plan book on this site. Also, log into your child's google classroom to see what is being posted there. Again, please feel free to contact me anytime as well!

**\***Students need to be organized in order to be successful in ELA class this year. Students need to come to class prepared and on time. Attendance is key to content knowledge!

**Please take the time to fill out this "Getting to Know You" paper. I look forward to reading your responses and "getting to know" your child better! THANKS!**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Birthday: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' or Guardians' Names: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Contact: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***5 words*** *that describe your child are...*

*1 -*

*2 -*

*3 -*

*4 -*

*5 -*

**What are your child's strengths?**

**Weaknesses?**

**Do you have a homework routine? Explain.**

**What motivates your child?**

**Is there anything not listed here that you would like me to know about your child?**

**Brushton-Moira Central School**

**Mrs. Durant's**

**ELA Supply List**



**Optional for the classroom:**

- Kleenex

- Hand Sanitizer
- Lysol Wipes
- Post-It-Notes
- Pencils
- Index Cards

**I would like students to come prepared with:**1 - Binder (dividers optional)
1 - Pack of loose leaf paper
1 - Notebook

1 - Index Cards
1 - Pack of Post-It-Notes
1 - Highlighter
+ Pens and Pencils

Please let me know if you are missing anything.

**THANK YOU!**