

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school and the beginning of life with your sixth grader! I am looking forward to the year ahead and know I will immensely enjoy teaching your child. The small class size this year offers us even more opportunities for learning and differentiated instruction.

This is my seventh year of teaching sixth grade Communication Arts at St. Peter's. Communication Arts encompasses literature, vocabulary, writing and grammar. Previously, I taught fifth grade as well as students with special education needs in a resource room within a public school setting. My undergraduate degree is from Southwest Missouri State University and my graduate degree in Educational Administration was earned at UMKC.

Our curriculum for sixth grade CA is based on national standards and state GLE's (Grade Level Expectations), which can be found on the internet at www.DESE.mo.gov. We use a variety of resources to teach these standards including McDougal Littell's *Literature and Voyages in English*, Loyola Press. We will incorporate Six Trait writing strategies as we work on the following pieces: descriptive, narrative, expository, persuasive, and workplace and technical writing.

In addition to working out of our *Literature* anthology, we will read at least two to three novels this year. If time allows at the end of the year, students will read novels in Literature Circles. I am meeting with each student individually to determine their Accelerated Reading (AR) goal for the 1st quarter. Every student's goal should be set by the end of this week. AR points are calculated as a percentage equivalent to one test score (100 points) each quarter. Sixth graders are expected to read one book from a designated genre each quarter. For example, I am asking that each student read one Newbery Award or Newbery Honor book for the first quarter. Sometimes a student will want to read a book that is not on the AR list. Once they have shown it to me and we have discussed how many points he would earn from a **pre-approved project**, they are more than welcome to use it toward their AR points. I will not accept projects that have not been discussed and received prior approval. **The first quarter deadline for AR points and projects is Monday, October 17th.** Students can access our *Literature* anthology on line by going to www.classzone.com. They will set up an account that allows them to view the book online which is helpful as this lovely book is weighty!

Please contact me if you have **any** questions and concerns. I will do my absolute best to respond within twenty-four hours. I will keep you informed of class projects and happenings through our teacher newsletters every other week and our soon to be established classroom website.

Sincerely,

Patti Dearth

816-523-4899, extension 523

pdearth@stpeterskc.org