**Mrs. Gervasi**

**Contact information:** [**taf0319@gmail.com**](mailto:taf0319@gmail.com)

**WELCOME TO THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF 7TH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**

I am very excited to embark upon a new school year with all of you. If we work together, 7th grade English will be a fun and challenging experience for us. We will debate, discuss, and write about important issues. My goal for the year is that you will grow as readers, and have a better understanding of the role that English plays in our lives and how it shapes us as people. Let’s work together to incorporate your ideas, and participation to create a successful year!

**Curriculum**

We will be looking at multiple units throughout the year. The essential questions we will ask ourselves throughout the year are: How do important decisions impact a person’s life? What does it mean to be an American? How do people express opinions in meaningful ways? What are the causes and effects of natural disasters? What simple steps can people take to make a difference for those in need?

Each unit will include informational, argument, and creative writing so that we can continue to grow as readers and writers. We will be reading texts that are a mix of fiction and nonfiction. In addition, you will be reading independently inside and outside of the classroom. The following is a tentative outline of the year, which will grow and change as the year progresses:

Unit 1 – Mapping Your Life – *Call Me Maria*

Unit 2 – Novel Study – *Monster*

Unit 3 – Stolen Childhoods – Independent Research Project

Unit 4 – Your Vote, Your Right – *Twelve Angry Men*

Unit 5 – Nature’s Fury – *The Perfect Storm*

Unit 6 – America Speaks – Poetry Presentations

Unit 7 – A Better World – *The Life You Can Save*

**Conferencing**

I will be scheduling weekly conferences to review your benchmarks and academic progress. We will be discussing the following during conferences: personal and academic progress, concerns we may have, and any questions you may have for me.

**Grading Policy**

Long-Term Assignments (Portfolio pieces, short answer responses) 30%

Tests/Quizzes 30%

Classwork/Participation 20%

Homework 20%

Vocabulary quizzes will be given weekly and a form of assessment will be given at the end of each unit. You will be given writing assignments consistently throughout the year. You will be given ample opportunity to review for any assessments and to make revisions to your assignments.

**Homework and Classwork Policy**

**Vocabulary** – you will be assigned a list of words and you will have weekly quizzes.

**Writing Reflection** – You will be assigned writing prompts in the beginning of each week. You will hand in the prompt by Friday each week and they should be no shorter than one page written.

**Student Guidelines for Success**

It is most important for you to work on your reading and writing skills to help you excel in all of your academic subjects which will ultimately lead you to college. Please be mindful of the following to help me create the best year possible for us:

-Please arrive to class on time.

-Always come to class prepared with all materials you will need each day, including a pen or pencil.

-I love to hear from all of my students! Everyone should make sure they have completed all assignments each night so that you may all contribute to classroom discussions which is included in your classwork grade. Please be mindful of your peers by listening when they speak, giving them positive feedback when asked to contribute, and working together within small groups and partner work.

-Always know that I am here to help you if you want help or need it. Peer tutoring and lunch tutoring is available.

**Parent/Guardian**

Please complete the following survey so that I know what materials your student has at home:

\_\_\_\_\_ Computer

\_\_\_\_\_ Internet

\_\_\_\_\_ Printer

**Modes of Communication**

I am always here to help you or your student when you have a question. I will also remain in contact with you throughout the year on a regular basis so that you can be kept up to date on their progress. I will be interested in communicating anything from successes to challenges that the students might be facing. If you need to contact me you may email me at [taf0319@gmail.com](mailto:taf0319@gmail.com) if you need to ask any questions about student work.

You may email me or call the school’s office to set up a phone conference to discuss academic progress, or any other issues you may want to discuss with me.

Please provide the best way for me to reach you via phone and email if you are willing to provide.

My phone number is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

My email is: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please reread and review this document with your student and sign and print your name to confirm that you have seen this information. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to send them with your child or contact me directly. I look forward to a year full of successes!

**I have read and reviewed this document and understand the expectations of 7th grade ELA:**

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Student