

WEEKLY READING AND WRITING

Dear Students and Parents,

Becoming stronger readers and writers takes practice. Just as your music teacher asks you to practice your instrument daily or a baseball coach encourages you to practice your curve ball, I want to encourage you to practice reading and writing every day. To help you do that, you will have weekly reading and writing assignments in this class. While you will occasionally have additional homework, such as studying for a test or conducting research, most of your homework will simply be to read 30 minutes a day and write one page a day for every day that we have school.

Today you were assigned your first week's writing assignment. By Friday, you will need to have completed four pages of writing. If we have a five-day week, you need to turn in five pages of writing on Friday. You may keep your writing in your spiral notebook or a special writing journal and turn that in on Fridays. If you prefer to write on a computer, you may turn in half the number of pages. They should be typed in a 12-point font and double-spaced. A page is one-sided.

For now, you can write anything except fiction. You may write about events in your life, hobbies, pastimes, travels, people you know, *etc.* You may write all of your pages in one day or spread the writing out during the week. You can write about one thing or several things.

Reading consistently makes you a stronger reader. You are expected to select appropriate books to read, read every night, and bring your book to school with you every day. You will keep track of the books and the number of pages you read in a reading log that is kept in the classroom. You will be expected to read 1000 pages fall semester, 1200 pages winter semester, and 1400 pages spring semester. You will also complete an annotated index card about four of the books you read each trimester as a way of recommending books to your classmates.

I hope you will enjoy this daily practice. If you have any questions, please check in with me.

Mr. Septka