

Dear Seventh Grade Parents and Students:

I hope that this letter finds everyone ready for a great new school year. I am very excited to be teaching Seventh Grade English this year! I feel very blessed to be teaching at St. Mark. It is my belief that through strong dedication and communication this will be a great year for all of us. The following information is my classroom routine and policies. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me at the school or email me at [riordan@stmarkwestpark.com](mailto:riordan@stmarkwestpark.com). You will also find weekly updates including homework and test announcements on Grade lock. I look forward to working with you this year to ensure the highest level of achievement for all students!

### **Mrs. Riordan's Classroom Routine and Policies**

#### **Expectations:**

1. Every student will come to class daily with all needed materials including: binders, notebooks, textbooks, assignments, pens, pencils, and markers.
2. Every student will show respect for themselves, each other, and their surroundings.
3. Students will seek extra help and ask questions when they are having difficulty.
4. Students will complete all assignments on time and come to class ready to learn.
5. If a student is absent, it is their responsibility to seek help for lessons and assignments missed.

#### **English Grade 7**

English classes this year will consist of a combination of writing, grammar, speaking, listening, and vocabulary. Each class will begin with students completing the Daily Edit. Students will come into class, open their binders to the Daily Edit section, copy the given sentence as its written on the active board, and then correct the sentence using proofreading marks and a red pen. We will also be using Simple Solutions Grammar this year. Students will be given daily practice in this book and we will have a quiz on what we have learned at the end of most weeks. This year we will be doing a variety of writing, including persuasive writing, expository writing, narratives, and research assignments. We will also practice giving speeches and listening to others. Rubrics will be given ahead of time for large assignments so students will know exactly what they are being graded on each time. The students will then turn the rubrics in with their final assignments to be used for grading. Grammar will be integrated into lessons, and tests will be given for different topics. Each quarter, the students will be required to turn in a Current Events project. For this, students will locate an article on a current event that interests them, write a paper according to rubric requirements, and be prepared to give a presentation (including a Google slides presentation) on the article. This may be turned in any time before the due date at the end of the quarter. We will also be doing a writing workshop once a week. This will require students to complete a progress report at the end of each session to help me know how their work is going. The students will be required to turn in a certain number of writings each quarter to be graded. This will vary depending

on other items we are working on in the class. I will use workshop time to conference individually with students and guide them through peer revision. Starting this year, the students will no longer receive a spelling grade. This grade will be included in the English grade. We will be using the *Vocabulary Workshop* workbook. The book does a great job of introducing new vocabulary and giving meaningful exercises to help master the meaning of each word. We will do one unit every two weeks. Our usual routine will involve introducing a unit on a Monday and having the entire unit due the following week with a test to follow. Due dates will be posted on grade lock. Students are expected to bring the workbook to class at all times in order to ask questions and work on as time allows. Tests will be two parts: spelling and vocabulary. The spelling portion will include **all twenty words**. The website for our book offers many review activities and games to help study. I encourage you to register on this site and use it to prepare for tests.

### **Late Assignment/Homework Policy**

Any work not in class at the time it is due is considered late! Nightly homework assignments are checked at random and are worth four points. Nightly homework may be turned in later or the next day for half credit; no credit will be given after this time. **Any larger assignment that is not in class on the day it is due will be graded as follows: one day late = 20% off, two days late=25% off, three days late = 50% off. Any assignment turned in more than three days late will receive no credit.**

If you need any extra help or have questions, please feel free to contact me at [riordan@stmarkwestpark.com](mailto:riordan@stmarkwestpark.com). I look forward to a wonderful year with all of you!

God Bless You!

Mrs. Riordan