

# News From Language Arts

## First Quarter

Dear Parents, I wanted to take the time to introduce myself and tell you a little of what to expect from Language Arts.

**Introduction:** This will be my twelfth year of teaching. I was fortunate enough to spend 7 years at home with our 3 children. This will be my sixth year teaching 2nd grade here at Emerald Hill.

**Expectations:** I expect for every student to do his/her best. It is important that they allow other students to do the same. I give ample time for classwork to be completed. If a child chooses not to use his/her time wisely, he/she will complete it either during part of the recess time or for homework. I give number grades on all graded assignments. **If you see a grade boxed in a square, that assignment should be redone, turned back in, and will be regraded.** Please take the time to look for these assignments and review the skill with your child. Homework will be assigned every night and is expected to take 15-25 minutes. My two classroom rules are "Respect everybody and everything." and "Follow directions the first time they are given." I feel as though these rules cover every other rule that is set. When the rules are not followed the child will move their name on the homeroom teacher's discipline chart. We will spend part of our time in Language Arts class being reminded of proper behavior, following directions the first time, not talking, and coming prepared for class. If you could please reinforce this at home, it may help and we can use more of our time to become better readers.

**Goal:** My goal is to help your child become a better reader. I will be focusing on phonics and basic sight words to give them a strong foundation. I will also help your child become a reader who reads fluently and with emotion.

**Skills this nine weeks:** This year Mrs. Machleit, a reading specialist, will be working in our class to help us learn to spell better through Word Study. We will assess the students' spelling knowledge regularly through pretests. This allows us to have **Spelling** groups that will be learning on the students' spelling level. The students will be sorting their words by sound and spelling pattern. On the Spelling test they will be expected to be able to spell the word correctly as well as place it in the correct column for its feature (spelling pattern or sound). Also look for words that include these features: Short or long vowel sounds depending on child's needs as well as beginning and ending blends, beginning and ending digraphs, -ed,-s,-es,-ing endings, middle consonant sounds and plural nouns. Mrs. Machleit will also be with us to allow us to work in **Reading** groups based on our level and needs. Our Reading skills this grading period will include: Predicting, Character, Author's Purpose, Setting, Drawing Conclusions, Comparing and Contrasting, and Steps in a Process. We will be using the reading book in class, but we will mostly be reading from leveled readers, that were purchased by our school and grants that Mrs. Machleit was awarded. Each Thursday your child will be bringing home their big reading book in order to read the week's big story to you or a sibling or a stuffed animal. Please encourage your child to read "smoothly, like a flowing river-not bumping into boulders" and ask questions every so often about the story to check for understanding. In **Writing** Mrs. Machleit and I will begin by helping the students to write with details, more grown-up sentences (that have 5 words or more) and description. All students should be writing sentences that begin with a capital letter and end with the correct punctuation mark. We will help students to edit their writing, with the goal of helping the students to be aware of self-editing and making their writing the best they can possibly make it.

With Regards, Mrs. Rathbone  
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