

2018-2019 High Ability Learners Reading/Literature – Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Kaiser



Welcome to the High Ability Learning (HAL) classroom! We are excited to begin a new school year and get to know all the students. Mrs. Kaiser teaches the 5th grade group, and Mrs. Miller works with the 6th – 8th grade students. The classes will meet during the students' regular reading/literature time. Although the program is referred to as reading/literature, emphasis is also placed on language skills and writing. Students are qualified for the program based on a variety of measures focused in the area of Language Arts.

Once you have read this information, please sign and return the attached form to acknowledge you have read the information below.

Please be aware that any placement in the HAL classroom is always provisional. If a student is placed in the program this year, it does not guarantee the same placement for the next school year. Since student progress is continuously monitored, there could also be a change during the school year.

Communication: Please make me the first person you contact if you have any questions or concerns. Clear communication is an integral part of the success in the classroom, so please do not hesitate to contact me for any reason. You may contact me by e-mail or leave a message in the office.

Grading Policy: Grades are calculated by total points. Tests and projects will be assigned more points than daily work. Progress reports and quarter/semester reports will be available according to the school calendar. Please use Power School to monitor your child's grades. Grades for HAL Reading/Literature are sometimes fewer than other subjects, so a student's best effort on each assignment is imperative.

Homework: Daily reading assignments along with vocabulary or other comprehension work will be given. It is essential that homework is completed **independently** and **turned in on time**. Students should use their assignment notebooks to record assignments and tests. Homework is posted daily on the HAL website along with any upcoming test or project dates. It is the student's responsibility to keep this information in their assignment notebooks.

Late Homework: Assignments not turned in at the beginning of class or incomplete work will be considered late. The late assignment is due at the beginning of the next class period and will be graded at 70% of the total correct points. If the assignment is not turned in by the next class, the assignment will be further reduced. Projects are a majority of the student's grade for each novel. If a project is incomplete or turned in late this will negatively impact the student's overall grade. **Please note that this policy may be different from the regular classroom.**

Placement: Student placement is determined through a variety of methods. In determining a student's placement in HAL, the following criteria are used: standardized tests, grade-level achievement tests, classroom performance, and teacher referral. A student's reading and language ability are both evaluated for placement. Along with meeting the academic requirements, students should exhibit the following behaviors: strong effort, positive and cooperative attitude, ability to work independently, handing work in on time, and appropriate behavior.

Re-evaluation: Participation in HAL is always provisional. Students in HAL classes will be monitored throughout the year. If any of the qualifying criteria fails to be met, the student's placement will be re-

evaluated and may be placed on a probationary status. If the student cannot make the necessary changes during the probationary period, a return to the regular classroom will occur.

Projects/Tests/Assessments: Student knowledge will be evaluated through projects, periodic tests, or other forms of assessment. Each novel will have a choice of projects. Due dates for the projects are given well in advance and students are expected to turn in their project on the given date. There may be some opportunities to work on projects in class, but the students are responsible for completing the work independently and on time. Projects turned in on Google Docs must be shared with the teacher on the due date, or it may be considered late. It is important that this work is completed independently as it is meant to be an assessment for the student. Test dates and project due dates will be posted on the HAL website in advance.

Textbooks/Supplies: Students will use a variety of novels throughout the year. Additionally, 6th and 7th grade will also use a literature anthology. The anthology is also available on-line and the students will receive the login information. Some of the material covered may be the same as the regular classroom; however, more in-depth and supplementary materials will also be used. Students are expected to respectfully care for all books and may be charged a replacement fee for damaged or missing novels. The 6th and 7th grade anthology should be covered with a paper bag.

The following supplies are needed: notebook, loose-leaf paper, assignment notebook, and pen/pencil. 5th grade students need a non-spiral bound notebook for Writer's Workshop.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Kaiser

-----RETURN TO MRS. MILLER BY MAY 22ND-----



We have read the policies for the 2018-2019 HAL Reading/Literature program and consent to the expectations and policies of the HAL classroom. We understand students are re-evaluated every quarter and that current placement in the HAL program does not guarantee future placement in the program.

Parent Signature

Student Signature