

# *Welcome to Mrs. Pepper's Language Arts Class!*

Dear Liberty Middle School Parents,

August 3, 2020

My name is Mrs. Sarah Pepper and this is my second year at Liberty. I taught 9th - 12th grade English (and a variety of Communications-related electives) with Huntsville City Schools for six years. My degree is originally in Advertising and Public Relations, but my trajectory was quickly redirected toward Education. I was brought to Huntsville with Teach for America, and decided quickly into my two-year commitment that I wanted to teach long-term. I am so thankful I did, and haven't looked back since.

My philosophy on education has not once wavered, and I have found immense success each year in the classroom with this one thing: relationships are key. Despite this year beginning virtually, this principle still stands. Building a positive relationship with your student is my number one goal. If they feel welcome, secure, and confident to succeed in the classroom, they will. Educating your child will be a team effort, and I look forward to supporting each other on this front.

This year, there will be a strong emphasis on reading strategies and the reading-writing connection in order to prepare your students for success at the high school level. Through reading and writing, we will focus on composing a variety of writing products, extending our vocabulary, understanding grammar concepts, and emphasizing critical thinking skills through speaking and listening activities.

For the first few weeks, we will begin with mastering classroom policies and procedures, while covering the required summer reading texts. This will also include familiarizing students with our new virtual platform, Schoology. Each nine weeks, instruction and standards will be rooted in the thematic concepts of a novel and accompanying short stories. Writing, speaking, listening, vocabulary, and grammar will supplement these texts. While students in Language Arts classes are not required to provide their own texts, it is encouraged for students to purchase their own copies of novels for reading, re-reading, notes, annotation, and other activities.

Please read the attached classroom policies and procedures on our class syllabus. When completing the Distribution List Sign-Up, there is an "acknowledgement form" included to count as receipt of our classroom expectations. (LMS Website → Our Team → Teachers → Sarah Pepper → Distribution List Sign-Up). I look forward to working with your child this year. Please feel free to contact me at any time: sbpepper@madisoncity.k12.al.us. Kindly allow at least 24-48 hours for responses (perhaps longer over weekends and holidays). Do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns as they arise.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sarah Pepper

8th Grade Language Arts

Liberty Middle School