Dear 7th Grade Students and Families,

 Welcome to the 7th grade and the 2012-13 school year at Bolger Middle School. I hope you had a restful, relaxing and revitalizing summer.

 I am Mrs. Ryan, your 7th Grade Language Arts teacher for the school year. Many of you know me because I was your Language Arts teacher last year, in the 6th grade. There is no introduction needed. I hope you grew (and read) over the summer, and I look forward to seeing you progress and grow even more in the 7th grade.

 To those of you, who did not have me as a Language Arts teacher last year, welcome to my class. I look forward to getting to know you, as well as your reading and writing skills, just as much as I know my past students’ and their skills.

 I am very excited about working with all of you this year in being productive using the Reader’s & Writer’s Workshop Program.

 The Reader’s and Writer’s Workshop Programs we will be using in Language Arts class entails a routine, which includes teacher instruction at the beginning of class, independent work during class time (after instruction), and a time to share as a whole class at the conclusion of class.

 The Reader’s Workshop Program involves each student to choose his or her very own reading books to read independently, in order to respond and use their learned skills to share their comprehension of what they are reading.

 As for the Writer’s Workshop Program, if students read, their writing will improve, by being exposed to different genres, authors, and formats of writing. Students will often conference with me, their Language Arts teacher, to discuss their reading & writing progression. Individual (and group) conferencing allows your child’s teacher to keep track and document each student’s areas of needed improvement, the retention of skills being taught, and acknowledgement of student’s mastery of skills.

 The more the students adhere to the routine of the Reader’s & Writer’s Workshop Programs, the more each student will progress. I truly believe this, and look forward to instituting each of the Workshops’ practices in my Language Arts classroom.

 I am including in this welcome letter, the Classroom Rules & Consequences, Supplies, Homework Policy and Grading Policy. Parents: Please review the rules, information and policies with your child and sign the attached response sheet. Your response will allow me to know that you, as well as your child, are aware of my classroom management and what is expected within and outside my Language Arts classroom in order for progression and success in reading and writing to be achieved.

Mrs. Ryan’s Classroom Rules

R- Respect yourself and others.

E- Educate yourself in being effective (follow routine and procedures).

A- Always be prepared and allow yourself to succeed.

D- Do not interfere with the education of others.

Consequences

 Unfortunately, sometimes rules are not followed and the learning process is interrupted. If a student causes disruption within the classroom routine, the following steps will be taken in order to rectify and restore a productive classroom environment:

 First - A warning will be given to the student that his or her behavior/actions are disruptive.

 Second- Student’s parent/guardian will be notified if disruptive behavior/actions continue the same class period or within consecutive days.

 Third- Student will be assigned a 10 minute after school detention if disruptive behavior/actions continue, after parent is notified (parent will be informed of the possible assigned detention).

 Fourth- Administration will be notified through a referral, if disruptive

 behavior continues after assigned detention.

Language Arts Supplies

 Students will need the following items in class daily:

 Working Folder, Reader’s Notebook, Writer’s Notebook, Independent Reading Book, Pen (Blue or Black Only), Effort & Motivation.

Homework Policy

 7th Grade students are required to read 30 books within the school year; therefore students must be reading for 30 minutes daily.

 Students will have two reader’s responses to complete each week in class, therefore reading daily must occur. Major writing assignments are completed in class as well, since students will be given time to write after instruction and when conferencing with the teacher.

 The weekly reading responses and steps in completing major writing assignments can be completed at home, BUT are able to be completed in class if independent work time is used wisely.

Grading

 Major Writing Assignments = 50%

 Reader’s Responses (Two a week) = 30%

 Participation = 20%

 {Reading Log (Teacher’s & Student), Class Discussions,

 Overall involvement in classroom procedures}

 Studies show that parental involvement in a child’s education is one of the strongest indicators of student achievement. I hope you ask your child about the books he or she is reading and what they have chosen to write about in Language Arts class.

 If you have any questions, concerns, or wish to schedule a conference, you can contact me by calling the school and leaving a message, or emailing me at eryan@keansburg.k12.nj.us.

 Sincerely,

 Mrs. Ryan

Parent/Guardian Response

 I have read and understand the Classroom Rules & Consequences, Supplies, Policies and Procedures for Mrs. Ryan’s Language Arts Classroom with my 7th grade student \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

 (Student’s Name)

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 (Parent/Guardian Signature)