

# GRADE 8 ELA UPDATE

"The art of communication is the language of leadership." - James Humes

September 2017

## SEPTEMBER CLASSROOM FOCUS

As we welcome our 8th grade students back to Literacy classrooms, our main focus will be to enhance students speaking and listening skills. Over the past two years, all students have been introduced to our *Accountable Talk Chart* which provides students phrases and tools to conduct an academic, student-led, group discussion. Students will continue to use this chart, reinforcing respectful language and

supporting statements with logical evidence. This is a lifelong skill-set we strive to develop in each and every student.

	Listen	Summarize	Build
Accountable to the Learning Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sit up</li> <li>Look at the person talking</li> <li>Acknowledge others by name</li> <li>Nod your head</li> <li>Take turns talking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What I'm hearing you say it...</li> <li>I'll like to summarize what I think ____ is saying...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I would like to add to what ____ said.</li> <li>Does anyone have anything more to add?</li> </ul>
Accountable to Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Could you restate that for me, please?</li> <li>I'm not sure I understand...</li> <li>I still have a question about...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Let me show you where it says this in the text.</li> <li>What makes you think that, ____?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What ____ is saying connects to the text because...</li> <li>It seems like ____ and ____ are basically saying...</li> </ul>
Accountable to Rigorous Thinking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>____ what makes you think that?</li> <li>Can you show me where it says that in the text, ____?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I'm not sure I agree with what ____ said because...</li> <li>I can see ____'s point of view; however, I believe...</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I believe our next steps should be...</li> <li>Based upon the following evidence from our discussion... I NOW believe...</li> </ul>

### Reading Recommendations

<i>The Westing Game</i> by Ellen Raskin	Gr 6
<i>Waiting for Normal</i> by Leslie Connor	Gr 7
<i>The Boys Who Challenged Hitler</i> by Phillip Hoose	Gr 8

### \*September

#### MA ELA State Standards

- W.8.1a.. Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing the narrator and/or characters; organize an appropriate narrative sequence.
- SL.8.1a. Come to discussions prepared, having read or researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion.
- SL.8.1b. Follow rules for collegial discussions and decision-making, track progress towards specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed.

\*Other ELA/Reading standards are addressed during the month of September as well.

## A COMMUNITY OF READERS CELEBRATION

Our two goals for summer reading are to inspire a lifelong love of reading and to promote and develop literacy skills. This fall, students will meet with teachers and students who read the same book, and they will have a chance to interact and share with one another using their chosen book as a foundation.

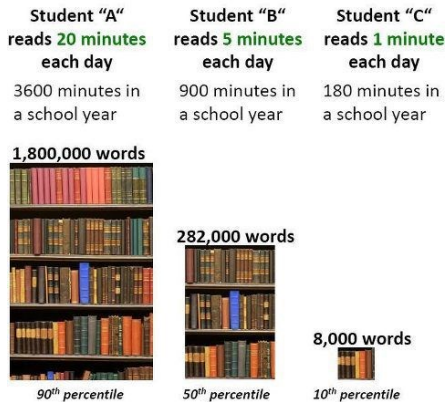
There will be no test or project; it will simply be a time to engage with others around reading. If you don't already know, ask your child which book group they are joining.

### Community of Readers Celebration Dates:

NMS: October 25, 2017

SMS: November 2, 2017

### Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?



By the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

If you have any questions about WPS' ELA/Reading Curriculum, please contact Chris Tolpa, Supervisor of Humanities:

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