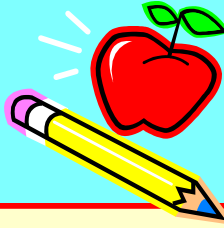




WELCOME TO
ELAR 8!



Evans Middle School
6998 W Eldorado Parkway
McKinney, Texas 75070
469-302-7100

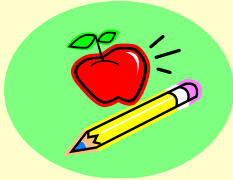
August 16, 2016
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Ms. May's Classroom Newsletter

Great Expectations!

Welcome to your last year at Evans Middle School! Hard to believe, right? I'm so glad that I have the opportunity to share this year with you, and I look forward to watching you grow and stretch as we take that last big step on the way to high school.

What should you expect in ELAR 8? We're going to work hard and move fast, so come to class ready to go each day. Just as you did in 6th and 7th grade, we'll continue to develop your reading and writing skills, pushing you to deeper, more complex levels of thinking. *Word Within a Word* work will continue this year. We'll review your words from the last two years and build upon them with six new



lists. We'll be studying fiction, short stories, poetry, non-fiction, and novels.

Be sure to bring your three most important tools each day: Interactive Notebook (spiral), agenda, and composition book. In addition, you'll have a textbook and two workbooks. More information on those will come later. You'll be trying many different types of writing this year: poetry, short answer responses (SAR), literary analysis, an expository essay, and a persuasive letter.

Most of all, we'll be working on the reading, writing, and thinking skills that you need to have a successful year and to prepare for your next step. You'll learn to effectively manage your time, both here and at home. I'm so excited for all that you will accomplish as you grow into a 9th grader!

Keeping in Touch

When you need to get information or to contact me, use one of the following:

- **Email**—rmay@mckinneyisd.net; emails will be answered no later than 24-hours after receipt.
- **Phone**—469-302-7212
- **Teacher Website**—this is a great resource for students and parents. Weekly announcements, updates, assignments, information, and my tutoring schedule can be found here.

Important Textbook Information

Throughout the year, there will be times when you need to use a literature textbook. A class set of books is available for your use during class. You will also be receiving an *Interactive Reader* (workbook), which contains many of the selections we will be reading this year. In the event that you need to access an individual copy of the textbook, you have two options:

1. **Hard copy textbook**—can be issued to you. You are responsible for textbook. You may take this book home and leave it there.
2. **Online textbook**— a user id and password can be issued to you which will allow you to access the online textbook and to complete assignments.

More information about this will be sent home during the first week of school.

Meet Ms. May

The 2016-2017 school year begins my 21st year of teaching--all in middle school. After a short move out of district, I'm really excited to return to the Evans community. Most of my 21 years have been spent in 8th grade because I love it! There's nothing like watching the transformation of my students each year.

I've lived in the McKinney area most of my life. I graduated with honors from Dallas Baptist University in 1989 and began my teaching career at Faubion when it was the **ONLY** middle school in McKinney. All three of my kids attended Evans. My oldest son works at Apple, my middle son is in his second year at UTD, and my youngest and only daughter is a sophomore at MBHS. When I'm not teaching I enjoy reading, spending time with my family, playing board games, working in my yard, and relaxing. I love to go "junking" at flea markets full of treasures for my house. My favorite place to relax is the beach!



Supplies for this year

You will need the following supplies this year:

1. 1 3-ring binder with dividers (for all classes)
2. 1 spiral notebook (for your Interactive Notebook)
3. 1 composition book
4. Pens (black and red)/pencils
5. Highlighters
6. Scotch tape
7. Glue sticks
8. Colored pencils

Homework Counts!

What should you expect to be doing at home? We work hard to balance the amount of work you do outside of school. Things you can expect to spend time doing include, but are not limited to:

1. Reading a selection that we'll be using the next day.
2. Completing class assignments. This might mean finishing a worksheet, annotating a piece of literature, finishing your "output" page, etc.
3. Studying your WWAW list for the week.
4. Reading a novel of your choice.
5. Working on an original piece of writing for Writing Workshop.

Tutoring Schedule

Attending regular tutoring to get extra help is so important. Once the year gets going, you'll be able to find my tutoring schedule on my website and posted in the classroom. I offer tutoring at least two days each week, with both morning and afternoon sessions available. You should schedule a time to work with me if you need:

1. Extra help with our class work
2. Help with make-up work
3. Help with our writing assignments
4. To make up/retake exams

Final Thoughts...

As we start this new year together, it reminds me of what I love best about school. Each year is a fresh start. You have the opportunity to begin with a clean slate and to write the story of your 8th grade year. Although I'm your teacher, I'm also a mom who has successfully navigated three rounds of middle school. I know the challenges you face, and I hope you'll trust me to help guide you through those challenges and toward your future in high school. Welcome to my class!

"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."
Ralph Waldo Emerson