

June, 2007

Dear Parents,

As the 7th Grade Reading Language Arts Teachers, we would like to take this opportunity to officially welcome you and your son/daughter to the 7th grade at School #31 .

We are very excited about spending the next year with your child and our mission is to create a literature rich environment that will help your child to develop his/her writing skills, enhance vocabulary, and broaden his/her knowledge of important historical events (just to name a few!)

School #31 is a unique place and what makes it so special is the dedication of all those involved in the education of your child. These include his/her teachers, our staff, the students themselves, and most importantly, you, the parent(s).

The following activities have been designed to allow your child to continue developing his/her reading and writing skills over the summer months.

Your child is required to read at least 3 books and do an assignment for each. The required book list and assignments are enclosed. You may also choose others at your child's level to read independently. **All 3 assignments are due the first day of school and will be graded.**

We look forward to meeting you in September and we hope you enjoy your summer.

Sincerely,

School #31 R/LA department

READING ASSIGNMENTS FOR INCOMING 7TH GRADE:
MRS. LANZA/MISS NEUHAUS

BOOK 1:

TAKING SIDES

By: Gary Soto

After reading the book, create all the activities for a literature circle for the odd number chapters only. Please be prepared to participate in a literature circle when we return to school. Below are the 5 jobs with their description:

*Questions: Create 5 questions that will spark a discussion. They cannot be yes/no questions

*Picture: Draw a picture about that chapter. Be sure your picture is colorful and that it contains a caption about what you have drawn.

* Vocabulary: Find 10 unknown words to you. Define them (using the definition that pertains to the story). Be sure to note the page number from the story for each word.

* Time Line: Create a time-line of events for each chapter with at least 5 events included. If you feel that there should be more, you may add more.

* Summary: Write a 1-2 paragraph summary of each chapter.

REMEMBER: EACH JOB MUST BE COMPLETED FOR EACH ODD CHAPTER.

BOOK 2:

DEFINE NORMAL

By: Julie Ann Peters

Pretend you have been asked by Mr. Webb to create a Peer Counseling program to be presented to him. Use the internet to research other peer counseling groups in schools and use their information as a guide for you.

You must include the following in your report:

*Who/what/where/when/why and how this program will be implemented

*How will the peer counselors will be chosen

*Who will facilitate this (because you need a teacher to help)

*Schedule/time/place/days etc....

*Will you need money to run this? How much? What will it be used for? How will you get it?

BOOK 3:

CRASH

By: Jerry Spinelli

After reading the book, complete the attached book report form.

Be sure to have each assignment completely finished and ready to turn in the first week of school in September.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU CAN EMAIL US AT:

lanzado@edu.elizabeth.k12.nj.us or neuhauskr@edu.elizabeth.k12.nj.us