

June 21, 2017

Dear Future Seventh Graders,

The school year is winding down, and as you prepare to say good-bye to your sixth-grade teachers, I hope you're getting excited about the seventh grade! Seventh grade *is* challenging, but you are all completely ready. You already have all the tools you need for a successful year, even if you don't know it yet.

In case you haven't heard, seventh grade is an awesome, thrill-packed year. What's that? You don't believe me?? Well, let me give you a few examples of what my seventh graders have done. We formed a model economy, with our own currency and student businesses. We toured the site of the Battle of Brooklyn in Park Slope and determined how to defeat the British, went to the Metropolitan Museum of Art to look at Renaissance art, visited the Whitney Museum and the Highline, re-enacted the Oregon Trail in outrageous costumes, and fought the Battle of Antietam on the playground. We read books that my kids said were the best books they had ever read: *Iqbal*, *Of Mice and Men*, *The Misfits*, and a slew of others in our book clubs. You'll learn how to write a research paper, how to debate an issue, and how to take care of a class pet (I love animals; you can follow my rabbit, @LennieThibodeau, on Instagram). We had a literary scavenger hunt at the library and were filmed for a major documentary about public libraries. We campaigned against companies that still use child labor, and talked about social justice, and some of the companies wrote us back. This week, we're going to Central Park for an end-of-the-year water gun battle; I am bringing my Supersoaker and forming careful alliances.

In case you're curious about me, I live in Queens and I've been teaching seventh grade at Shuang Wen for ten years. I love the kids, the parents, and the teachers that make up our community. I love to dance (as those of you who attended the holiday party already know). I practice a lot of yoga and am jealous of the kids I see on the playground doing acrobatic tricks (I aspire to learn to do a handstand). It's easy to talk me into push-up competitions or an impromptu Zumba session. I love to read, especially speculative fiction, or history, or really well-written horror, and I write everyday. I have a lot of friends with interesting jobs and I make them come in on Career Day to talk to you. I'm a current-events junkie; if you want to get a leg up this summer, get in the practice of reading newspapers and magazines. History is not just something that happened; history is something that is happening now. Read this summer! It's important.

If you have any questions or concerns, please find my email below. If you like my Facebook page, "Ms. Thibodeau's Humanities Class," you can see photos and videos from this year. Have a wonderful summer, and I'll see you in September!

Warmly,
Ms. Thibodeau
Thibodeau.Treena@gmail.com
PS 184-Shuang Wen School

2017-2018 SUPPLIES!!

\$5 to your HOMEROOM TEACHER for a SWS homework planner.

Humanities Supplies: Give to your ELA teacher

- 1 box of paperclips
- 1 pack of looseleaf
- 1 pack of pencils
- 2 Highlighters
- 2 BLUE folders with pockets (ELA writing projects)
- 1 RED folder with pockets (this will be your HW folder)
- 1 ORANGE folder with pockets (history folder)
- 1 GREEN folder for vocabulary notes
- 1 pack post-it notes
- 2 paper towels
- 1 box of tissues
- 2 composition notebooks (NON-spiral, please!)
- Index Cards (Standard size): 200 and an index Card holder

Chinese Class Supplies for September: Give to your Chinese teacher

- 1 composition notebook
- 1 YELLOW folder for homework
- 1 box of thick *Crayola* washable markers
- 2 small glue sticks
- 1 roll of *Scotch* transparent tape
- 2 roll of paper towels
- 1 box of *Kleenex* or *Puffs* tissue
- 1 pack of Clorox wipes
- 1 pack of *Post-it* notes (3x3 or 4x6 sizes)
- 1 pack of index card (white or multi-colored)
- 2 pens (blue, black or red)
- 2 pencils
- 1 highlighter
- Heavyweight Multi-color Construction Paper - 9" x 12", 50 Sheets/pack

Humanities Summer Homework:

So, now I've written you a letter; I'd like you to write me back. In 500 words (1-2 double-spaced pages, if you're typing), tell me about yourself. What would it help me to know about you as a student? As a person? What are your hopes and fears for next year? What are your favorite books, your favorite genres to write, your favorite topics in Social Studies? (I know you did Greek myths this year; which is your favorite?) What are your hobbies? What is your family like? This letter is your chance to dazzle me with all the writing skills you learned this year, but it's also your chance to introduce yourself to me. Feel free to draw pictures; I love pictures.