

**John Jay Middle School**

P.O. Box 387

Katonah, NY 10536

914-763-7500

***“Learn. Care. Lead.”***

***Mr. Jeffrey Swiatowicz, Principal***

***Ms. Monica Bermiss, Assistant Principal***

***Ms. Shantel Brooks, Assistant Principal***

**2019-20 Open House**

**JJMS Goal:** Take the time to get to know our students well and use that knowledge to increase student engagement in our classrooms.

**Classroom Mission:** On Team Intrepid, we look forward to engaging with the world around us. This includes how we interact with peers, teachers, and the subjects we’re learning. We anticipate the celebration of success, the discovery of new ideas, the collaboration with one another, and trust that our challenges will be met with support and empathy. We expect to take risks, meet new people, and grow as individuals, both socially and academically.

**Subject:** Grade 6 English Language Arts

**Teacher’s Name:** Mary Dillon

**Curriculum:** To prepare students for Common-Core expectations, all students are expected to read, analyze, and cite text to support in both discussion and writing, in a variety of genres, both fiction and non-fiction, throughout the year.

Students are taught a variety of comprehension strategies to maximize their interaction with all types of text. Emphasis is also placed on vocabulary development throughout the year to increase students’ ability to access more challenging texts and communicate more effectively in writing.

Students are also expected to draft, revise, edit and publish writing pieces in school, using the many skills and strategies instructed in “writing workshop.” Students will learn and practice these revision strategies to improve and enhance their organization and presentation of ideas. Writing assignments will often involve making a claim/s about what students have read/researched and supporting these claims with clear and substantial text-based evidence and cogent reasoning.

Students are accountable for their progress as independent readers and will be required to show an understanding of the books they read in various ways. In an effort to foster this, students are asked to read independently for a minimum of twenty minutes each night as part of their regular homework. We hope reading will bring students pleasure as well as knowledge.

**Grading and Homework:** Students will be graded on a wide variety of formal and informal assessments in addition to homework and classwork.

70% of the trimester grade will be based on major assessments and assignments (process writing pieces, reading comprehension tests, long-term projects). All major assignments have equal value.

30% of the trimester grade will be based on minor assessments and assignments (vocabulary quizzes, formative assessments, classwork completion, reading comprehension quizzes). All minor assignments have equal value.

Each trimester will account for one-third of the final average when determining the end-of -year grade.

**Resources:** Various Short Stories, Harry Houdini: A Photographic Story of a Life by Vicki Cobb, A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park, Good Masters, Sweet Ladies: Life in a Medieval Village by Laura Amy Schlitz

**Extra Help:** Wednesdays

**Teacher Contact Information:** [mdillon@klschools.org](mailto:mdillon@klschools.org) 763-7500 x9307