

# JEPSON ENGLISH NEWS

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## WELCOME!

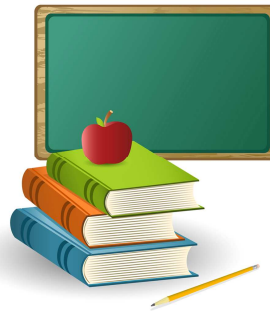
Welcome to a new and exciting year! I am thrilled to have your child in class. This year will be both an exciting and rewarding year for your child both academically and socially. I will do my best to help ensure that your child transitions smoothly into junior high. With the combined efforts of your child, you, and teachers we should have a successful and productive year!

Your child will spend two periods a day in language arts. This ensures a thorough learning experience in English, literature, writing, and speech, as well as other areas related to English.

Homework is mostly Mondays through Thursdays, although your child may need to study for tests, quizzes, or work on projects on any day of the week. Our school policy is not to accept late work, so it is crucial that your child has his or her work handed in on time. In case of an absence, your child is allowed two days for every one day absent to make up work. Please check the online calendar for homework, quizzes, projects and more at:

<http://jepson.pbworks.com/Importants-Dates>

My goal is to give your child an excellent educa-



tion in a positive and accepting environment. I am truly looking forward to an amazing year!!

Danesa Jepson

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### Special points of interest:

- Helping you child succeed
- Check out our webpages!
- Important Due dates
- Eportfolios

## HOW TO SUCCEED IN ENGLISH IN 9 EASY STEPS

Surviving 7<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts is not as tough as it sounds! If you wish to succeed, you will. The following is a parent and stu-

dent guide to success. It can work **IF YOU PUT FORTH THE EFFORT AND WORK IT!**

**1. COMPLETE HOME-**

### **WORK ASSIGNMENTS:**

All assignments should be written in your planner

## 9 WAYS TO SUCCEED CONTINUED:

### **2. Study for THE QUIZZES AND**

**TESTS:** You are aware of the quizzes and tests in advance. Use the stickers in the back of your planner to remind you of these important days.

### **3. MAKE AN APPOINTMENT**

**WITH ME:** If you need extra help or have questions come see me!

### **4. OASIS –AFTER SCHOOL PRO-**

**GRAM:** Sign up for OASIS. The academic session is one hour and provides a safe place to complete your homework or receive extra help.

### **5. MAKE UP ALL YOUR**

**MISSED WORK WHEN YOU ARE**

**ABSENT:** This is one of the biggest pitfalls of a student's grade – not making up their missed work. Don't let this be you! Check the homework

binder immediately when you return and get your missing work!

### **6. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE**

**EXAM STUDY GUIDE:** I provide one for each exam and will **be posted on this wiki!** Don't just ignore it.....answer it and study it!

### **7. PAY ATTENTION DURING**

**CLASSROOM LECTURES and**

**Reviews:** I will recap the information, especially what will be on the exam.

### **8. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EX-**

**TRA CREDIT:** This can help but remember - it can be no more than 3% of your grade.

### **9. WRITE ALL ASSIGNMENTS**

**DOWN IN YOUR PLANNER:** This

is a class assignment worth 100 points each month! **PARENTS:** Please check your student's planner daily to match what they have completed to what is written in their planner. This will help eliminate the "incomplete homework syndrome" that can plague students.



Turn in homework on time!

## TROUBLE WITH GRADES? HERE ARE SOME TIPS!

Junior high can be a challenging adjustment for your child. As a result his or her grade could suffer. This may be the result of one or more of the following reasons:

- Not turning in homework.

- Not making up work when absent
- Not studying for exams/quizzes and using the provided exam study

*One or more reasons can result in a low grade. Check out these tips to get your child back on track!*

guide

- Not focusing in class and/or finishing the work at home for correction the next day
- Not turning in the progress notes I have sent home twice a month

## TIPS CONTINUED....

to keep you updated of your student's grade

- Not completing an update planner of assignments, quizzes, and projects.

Your student is aware of what he or she needs to do to bring their grade up; however here are some suggestions to help keep you informed of how he/she is doing in class:

- **Pink sheets on Monday** - this is

a pink grade sheet that teachers will fill out for students who ask every Monday.

- **Planner signatures** – teachers will sign the planner of any student who fills out their daily agenda correctly. The teacher will sign their initials on it stating what the student filled out is accurate.

- **Check the planner** to ensure the work is complete. Double check what your student has completed to

what is in their planner daily.

- **Check your students grades online** [here](http://www.oakdale.k12.ca.us/AeriesPortal/Default.htm)

<http://www.oakdale.k12.ca.us/AeriesPortal/Default.htm>

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions.



Please contact me anytime!

create a Poetry Portfolio as their cumulative project. This can be completed by typing and printing it, recording is on video, or even creating a webpage on our class website.

More to come in the next issue!

## CURRENT CURRICULUM

As you know, your child has language arts two periods a day. This ensures that we have proper time to cover all the California State Standards to prepare your students for eighth grade as well as state testing.

For the month of September, we will be focusing on grammar. Seventh grade is the last year students receive a full dose of grammar. We will spend some time reviewing capitalization (WO 1.6) and punctuation (WO 1.0, 1.4, 1.8). Most of their lessons are on the SMARTboard and I hope to post podcasts of these lessons on the class webpage soon. Once posted, you will receive a bulletin. Student homework will be directly in their *Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics* (aka GUM book) workbooks. However, there are two "real world" activities to motivate students as well as give students a sense of true purpose and reason to why we study grammar. This includes creating our class calendar for ALL students to use,

and typing business letters to a chosen person to actually send to that person in the hopes of receiving an answer back. Please refer to the calendar on the webpage for assignments.

Also, we will dive in to fictional stories. Our next short story is the classic story of a life-saving mongoose *Rikki-Tikki-Tavi*, and of course, a viewing of the classic cartoon upon finishing the story.

As for writing, we are currently focusing on writing a Response to Literature. Here, students are asked to choose a favorite piece of writing (tv show included) and write to the author explaining why their book or show is their favorite. The key to this type of writing is that students provide **direct examples from the book or show**. This is huge! Our final draft is due September 15. This will be added to our eportfolio as well. Additionally, we will begin poetry. Students will read and write poems. During this study, students will

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*Working together to achieve!*

We're on the web!  
[www.jepson.pbworks.com](http://www.jepson.pbworks.com)  
<http://jepson.podomatic.com>  
[www.jepsonroomd4.blogspot.com](http://www.jepsonroomd4.blogspot.com)

*More than anything, I want to see your child succeed to the best of their ability and beyond. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I will get back to you no later than twenty-four hours. I appreciate all you do in support of your child, our school, and each of his and her teachers!*

*To a great year!*

*Danesa Jepson*



**The Duck Pond**

**IMPORTANT DATES!**



- |      |                            |      |                          |
|------|----------------------------|------|--------------------------|
| 9-15 | -Final draft due           | 9-26 | -Memorize poem           |
|      | -Begin Point of view story | 9-28 | -Four Square Quiz        |
| 9-16 | -Rikki Quiz                | 9-30 | -Point of view story due |
|      | -Business letters due      |      | Higwayman Quiz           |
|      | -Punctuation Quiz          |      | Planner check            |
| 9-22 | -Progress Reports go home  |      |                          |
| 9-23 | -Poetry terms Quiz         |      |                          |

Eportfolios are new in Room D4! We are using Google Apps to showcase our work and growth throughout the year. Your child only needs a gmail account to get started. Ms. Jepson is also joining the fun with her very own eportfolio as well!

If you have any questions or concerns, please let Ms. Jepson know!