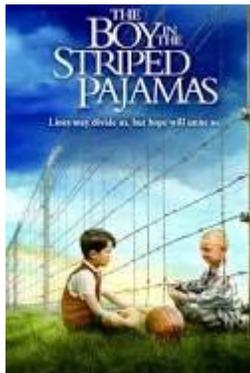


## English 8

The 8th grade curriculum covers a variety of topics from figurative language to dialogue with much inbetween. Multiple genres are explored, and there are multiple tie-ins with the Social Studies curriculum. Students are challenged to read, think, analyze, synthesize, question, cite evidence, debate, and write. Forty Acres and Maybe a Mule by Harriette Gillem Robinet and The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne are two of the books studied during the year. Students will also need to read independently to build their reading stamina. For this purpose, all students should have a book with them at all times. For writing, some of the pieces they will work on are essays analyzing characters and story elements, argument essays, and a research paper. One overarching goal is to foster more academic independence and teach real world skills so that students are successful in high school and beyond.



# Berlin Middle School ELA

2019-2020

Mrs. Gilbert

ELA 6, English Department Chair 6-12,  
Grade 6 Team Leader, M.S. Student Council

Mrs. Meyers

ELA 7, Grade 7 Team Leader, Cheerleading Coach

Mrs. Cornell

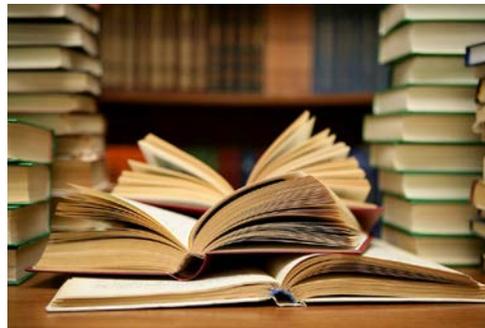
ELA 8

Mrs. Kabir

Reading Teacher

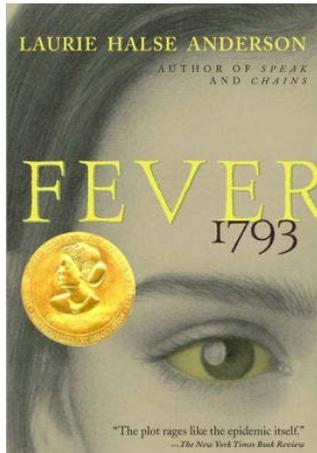
Mrs. Mooney

Reading Teacher



## English 7

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA curriculum strives to nourish students to become life-long learners. Class will be conducted using the workshop model; emphasizing the use of mini lessons, independent practice, and then reflection. Our focus of study will be on the use of literary elements and devices throughout many pieces of literature, including novels, short stories, drama and poetry and the transition of those elements into our own writing (argument, expository, and narrative). Students will explore different universal themes such as *the importance of the individual* and *growing up in a changing world* through the analysis of full-length works such as House on Mango Street, Fever, 1793 and The Giver. Seventh graders will come away from ELA-7 with a portfolio of their best work from throughout the school year.



## Mrs. Mooney & Mrs. Kabir Reading

Reading class is designed specifically for students with significant reading deficits who benefit from small group/ one-on-one student-teacher interaction and instruction. The goal is to teach reading strategies inside the classroom that will help students become more competent and confident readers. The hope is to change reluctant and struggling readers into lifelong readers who read not only for information and necessity, but who also develop a love of reading that will last a lifetime.

In our classes we help students achieve this through multiple and diverse differentiated and adaptive methods including direct explicit teacher-led instruction as well as online programs calibrated specifically to address each student's individual needs. The class instruction includes:

- ★ Building phonemic awareness to improve decoding and reading fluency
- ★ Building a better understanding of words by learning their origins and recognizing the roots, prefixes, and suffixes and their meanings
- ★ Building comprehension by delving into vocabulary through the texts we read and through the use of programs such as Membean
- ★ Increasing word recognition, fluency, and comprehension by encouraging regular sustained independent or guided reading inside and outside of school through a variety of texts including newspapers, magazines, books, and online programs such as Core5, Powerup, CommonLit, Readlive, ReadTheory, and NewsELA



It's called **reading**.  
It's how people install new software into their brains.

### Useful Websites:

[www.lexile.com](http://www.lexile.com)

[www.Scope.scholastic.com](http://www.Scope.scholastic.com)

[www.sadlierconnect.com/@766670](http://www.sadlierconnect.com/@766670)

[www.newsela.com](http://www.newsela.com)

### English 6

6<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA is unit/theme based. The four themes students are introduced to are *Overcoming Adversity* with the book, Number the Stars, *Choices* with Tuck Everlasting, *Heroes and mythology* with The Lightning Thief, *Author's Craft*, a research project on an author of the student's choice. In addition to the classroom books, each quarter students will be expected to choose a book to read throughout that quarter that connects to the theme we are working on. Students will be completing several different types of writing pieces and one project throughout each quarter. Some of the additional writing pieces students will complete are: an informational piece, compose a persuasive essay on a debatable topic, formulate a conflict essay that discusses the different conflicts among book characters, and develop a narrator hero's journey story (cross curricular w/Social Studies), and an author's craft project. We will also be working on a PBL project this year. Through the reading and writing pieces, students will challenge themselves as readers and writers. They will expand their knowledge by answering questions that connect to the themes such as, "How do people overcome obstacles and challenges?" "Does

living mean always changing?” “How do the choices we make affect others?” and “Why is it important for an author to know the audience they are writing for?” The goal of ELA 6 is for students to gain many reading, writing, listening and speaking skills along with becoming lifelong learners.

