Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to the Seventh Grade Advanced Language Arts program at Brawley Middle School. The program is designed to make students think; many new teaching strategies will be used to enrich the learning process.

This year we will be using a vocabulary program called “Word Within the Word.” It is a program that involves the memorization of Latin and Greek root words. Parents and Guardians, please be ready to help your child with this program.

I will expect my students to read at least 2.5-4 hours per week outside of class. The outside reading time will include both class and independent novels. Your support is crucial to our effort to improve reading scores and to foster life-long readers by ensuring that your child meets this criterion.

Please purchase the following items and bring them to class on the first day of school: one folder for classroom assignments and homework and a marble composition book. I also prefer that students purchase their novels for making annotated notes and for highlighting vocabulary words. You will need to purchase The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton, The Martian Chronicles by Ray Bradbury, And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie, Bad Boy by Walter Dean Myers, and Red Scarf Girl by Ji-Li Jiang. Students will need these novels by September 5th. Please let me know if you have a problem with your child studying these novels. Other novels will need to be purchased as the school year progresses. Parent e-mail notifications will be sent when the additional books are needed for class. Other supplies your child will need for this class include: loose-leaf paper, blue or black pens, pencils, colored pencils/pens, post-it notes, and a highlighter pen.

Please e-mail me when you get this letter at abaldwin@iss.k12.nc.us. Please include your child’s name, block and any questions or concerns that you may have in your e-mail. I will use the e-mail addresses I receive to make parents aware of Language Arts related information throughout the year. Also, please check my personal webpage at your earliest convenience at the following address: http://iss.schoolwires.com//Domain/205. Homework assignments will be listed on Canvas.

I look forward to working with both you and your child!

Abby Baldwin

abaldwin@iss.k12.nc.us
First and Second Semester Novels for Class Study

Please let me know if you have a problem with your child studying any of these novels; an alternative selection will be suggested for independent study.

The Outsiders
S.E. Hinton

The Martian Chronicles
Ray Bradbury

And Then There Were None
Agatha Christie

Red Scarf Girl
Ji-Li Jiang

Bad Boy
Walter Dean Myers

Possible Novels for Literature Circles

The House of the Scorpion
Nancy Farmer

The Maze Runner
James Dashner

Incarceron
Catherine Fisher

Matched
Ally Condie

Legend
Marie Lu

The Roar
Emma Clayton

Gathering Blue
Lois Lowry