

**English Language Arts**  
**Ms. Shannon Burke**  
**Elmwood Village Charter School 2018-2019**

Teacher Contact Information:

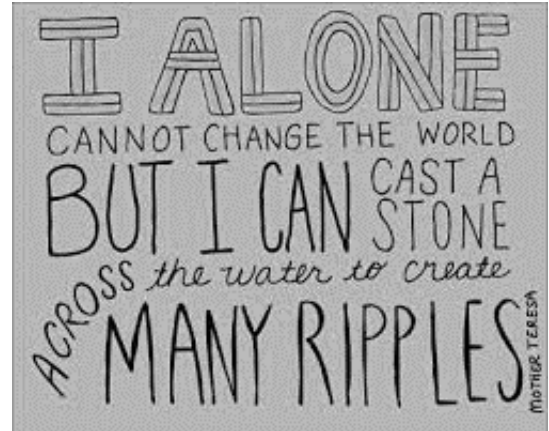
Ms. Shannon Burke

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<b>Yearly Theme: How Can Young People Make a Difference in the World?</b>
<b>Yearly Units</b>
Unit 1: How Can Young People Make a Difference in the World?
Unit 2: What Makes People Resilient?
Unit 3: How Do Communities Shape People?
Unit 4: What Does It Take to Be a Hero?
Unit 5: How Are Knowledge and Power Related?
Review Unit: How Can You Show What You Know?
Drama Unit: How Can You Express Yourself?
Unit 6: Are You True to Yourself?

**All ELA units are centered on these important questions. I look forward to a great year of discovery, reflection, and discussion!**

# Course Procedures and Information

## Entering the ELA Classroom:

- Everyone will come to ELA with the following supplies each day:
  - Writing utensil
  - Literature circle book or independent reading book (depending on the unit)
  - Literature circle folder
  - Literature circle close reading notebook
- Everyone will be able to use a supply pouch during ELA. These will be stored in the classroom. Please be mindful of these supplies and understand that you are using these, but they do not belong to you!
- Everyone will enter the ELA room quickly and quietly.
- Everyone will take a seat and complete the Do Now. Your Do Now will be posted on the class message.
- Everyone will free read after completing the Do Now.

## Exiting the ELA Classroom:

- Everyone will organize all of their belongings. (1)
- Everyone will stand up when instructed to do so. (2)
- Everyone will line up quickly and quietly when instructed to do so. (3)

## Classroom Rules:

- Everyone will follow the EVCS School Rules.
- Everyone in the ELA classroom, including all teachers and students, will work on developing expectations that must be followed in this specific class.
- Both rules and expectations will be posted in the classroom as a reminder to all members of our community.

## Chapter Books:

- This year we are going to read many books as an entire class! This is going to be an exciting new adventure.
- You should have either your literature circle book OR your independent free read with you in all classes.
- The books that you receive in class belong to EVCS. Be gentle! You will use your five-subject notebook to close read your book.

## Assessments:

- Members of our ELA community will be assessed on the stories and skills that we have covered in class **after each unit**. I will always remind you of these in advance. You do not have a weekly assessment each Friday.
- A large part of our class is focused on the writing process. You will be asked to complete some formal writing. We will conference throughout this task and you will receive all the support that you need in order to develop a piece of writing that you are proud to present, display, and show off.

### Homework:

- Most of our year will be spent reading chapter books. You will usually have time in class to complete your close reading. There may be times when you must do reading on your own time. It is in your best interest to make the most of your class time so that you have less to do at home!
- You will turn in homework at the beginning of each day to your advisory teacher. This teacher will check it and return it to you before you leave for your first period class. It is your job to bring these materials to class with you.
- Any student who is late to school will need to see me before lunch to show me completed homework.
- Any student who does not turn in homework will have a silent, working lunch *that day* because it is so important to complete these assignments. Any student missing three homework assignments will stay after school to make up missing work or get ahead on the work for that week.
- **All homework assignments will be posted to the ELA class web site!**

### Classroom Library:

- There are many books available in the ELA classroom. Books range based on grade level, subject matter, and genre. I hope there is something for everyone.
- Some of our books are considered “Young Adult” (YA) and deal with teenage characters and issues. I want to work with parents to ensure that everyone is comfortable with their child’s reading material. **Please initial below to indicate your preference about YA literature.**
- You have complete access to these books. Unlike a public library, there is no “due date,” but I will ask that books are signed out. You should put books you are returning in the appropriate area near the library. **This year, you may take out no more than 1 book at a time.**
- You must ask to visit the library. There may not be more than one student at a time in the library unless a teacher allows it. We are asking that students visit the library during the morning so that ELA isn’t disrupted.

### EVCS Technology:

- We are lucky enough to be able to use the Chromebooks in ELA once again this year. It is very important that the Chromebooks are used appropriately in order for us to continue using this.
- **All students will receive a Technology Contract.** This will need to be signed by both the student and their parent/guardian!

### ELA Movies:

- There are times when the topics that we cover or the texts that we read will have a visual component.
- I will always send home information about films that we watch. In addition, I want to ensure that parents are comfortable with what we watch in class. **Please initial below to indicate your preference about movies in ELA.**

**“I do believe something very magical can happen when you read a good book.”**

~ J.K. Rowling



I, \_\_\_\_\_,  
student name

have read all of the information about my ELA class this year and understand that it is my job to:

- come prepared for class.
- follow all ELA entering and exiting routines.
- participate in creating the ELA class expectations.
- follow all EVCS school rules and all ELA class expectations.
- read independently throughout the school year.
- complete all homework and turn it in on the day that it is due.
- study for all assessments.
- complete all formal writing to the best of my ability.
- use the classroom library appropriately.
- keep my ELA supplies organized.
- appropriately use all technology.
- ALWAYS ASK FOR HELP!
- BE AWESOME!

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred method of contact: (circle please)                      e-mail                      phone

Parents: Please indicate your preference for YA literature and movies in ELA by initialing below.

\_\_\_\_\_ I allow my middle school student to read YA literature.

\_\_\_\_\_ I allow my middle school student to view all ELA movies based on Ms. Burke's discretion.

**Please detach this sheet and turn this into your advisory teacher no later than Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**You will also turn in your summer work on Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**Let's start the year out on a positive note!**