

MS. HAWKINS
MR. QUATRONE

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

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- Stay in touch!

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Welcome to 211 ELA

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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Introduction

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to welcome your child to our English Language Arts class. I know that together, we can work as a team to help your child achieve his/her best and have a successful school year. This purpose of this newsletter is to introduce you to our class and the expectations for achieving success. We would appreciate it if you would read and discuss this newsletter with your child and return the final page to us signed by your and your child, with your preferred contact

Please read through this newsletter to familiarize yourself with our expectations, units of study, rules, grading policy, supply list, and means of communication.

We firmly believe the saying that it takes a village to raise a child and believe in your child's success. We hope to have a successful school year and look forward to working alongside you and your child this year!

—Ms. Hawkins and Mr. Quatrone



Meet your teachers!

Mr. Quatrone is very excited to be teaching at PSMS 161 this year. He is a graduate of City College, a neighbor of 161 and has taught previously in the Bronx. Mr. Quatrone has high expectations of his students and challenges them to push their thinking. He is eager to start the school year off strong.

Mr. Quatrone loves baseball, books and biking around the city.

Ms. Hawkins looks forward to being a part of PSMS 161 this year. She is a graduate of St. John's University and is currently pursuing her Master's in Teaching at Brooklyn College, and has been a Harlemite for close to 10 years. Ms.

Hawkins believes all students are capable of achieving their absolute best no matter their circumstance and holds high expectations for all.

Ms. Hawkins enjoys reading, writing, music and enjoying what the city has to offer!

Be sure to come out to our first Parent Teacher Conference as well on September 17th, we look forward to seeing you then!

Class Rules



Class Rules: In order to create a safe and comfortable learning community that supports learning and growth, students in our class are expected to follow these rules that we have created together:

- All students are expected to follow the school and New York City Chancellor's Codes of Conduct.
- All students are expected to act and speak with re-

spect for themselves and others.

- All students are expected to arrive on time to class daily prepared to work.
- All students are expected to do homework daily, including reading independently for at least 45 minutes.
- All students are expected to participate in all class activities and

discussions and work both independently and in cooperative groups.

Preparation

In order for students to be prepared for class, they will need the following school supplies:

- one 5-subject notebook (will be kept in class)
- two pocket folders—one for reading and one for writing. (folders will be kept in class)
- one folder for homework
- loose leaf paper for homework and writing drafts
- at least two blue or black pens brought to class daily
- New York City Public Library Card

We ask that you shop for these materials soon as this course is reading and writing intensive and requires these items to remain successful and organized throughout the year.

Grading Policy

Your child's grade will be based on the following:

- Assessments and Writing Pieces – 45% of grade
- Classwork—25% of grade
- Homework - 15% of grade
- Participation and Effort - 15% of grade.



Units of Study & Curriculum

PS/MS 161 utilizes the rigorous curriculum supplied by Teachers' College. The 7th grade and 8th grade curriculums in English Language Arts will focus on key areas to supplement our students in the skills needed to become exemplar readers and writers. For the months of September and October our 7th grade classes will focus on Independent Author Studies (reading component) and Writing Realistic Fiction: Symbolism, Syntax and Truth (writing component).

Our 8th graders will focus on Reading Analytically across Genres—Recognizing Archetypes, Allusions and Arguments (reading

component) and Investigative Journalism (writing component).

Students will participate daily in Reader's and Writer's Workshops. In Reader's Workshop, students will be taught about different features and learn reading comprehension strategies to support their reading. They will read independently in class daily where they will get a chance to practice these strategies and look at author's craft. They will have a daily sharer session where they will get a chance to discuss their learning with others. In Writer's Workshop, students will learn craft lessons and writing strategies to improve their writing.

Through these studies, students will read and write across a variety of text types and become involved in book discussion groups, learning how to respond to a variety of texts. We will also celebrate your child's work by posting around our classroom. We will be sure to update you on any changes and upcoming projects, and welcome your help and support with our students!

- Make sure that your child reads books from a variety of genres including: realistic fiction, mystery, science fiction, fantasy, historical fiction, myth, legend, fairy tale, folk tale, horror, biography, autobiography, newspapers, magazines, feature articles, nonfiction, etc.

- Limit television viewing

- Encourage your child to get adequate amounts of sleep. Recent brain research has determined that

children between the ages of 12-18 need an average of nine and a half hours of sleep a night in order to grow and function properly in school.

- Please check that your child is doing homework on a daily basis.

- Please check that your child is proofreading his/her work but please do not do this for him/her. Your child needs to practice these skills in order to become an independent learner and writer.

- Have reading materials available

in the house to send the message that reading is important.

- Make sure that your child has a quiet place in which to read and a daily routine that includes reading and homework.

- Please ask your child on a regular basis for school notices that might have been sent home.

- It is helpful to discuss what your child is reading with him/her. This offers support and encouragement for your child to read. Your child's understanding of what he/she is reading will improve through discussion.

How to Contact Us

Our school has an open door policy for parents. You are welcome to come up at any time and visit your child's class. You are always invited to contact me if you have any concerns or questions. You can contact us in the following ways:

Ms. Angel I. Hawkins

E-mail:

angelhawkins@psms161.org

Mr. Eric Quatrone

E-mail:

ericquatrone@psms161.org

Please check out our website at hawkquarters.weebly.com to keep in the know of what's going on in our class! Also please sign up on remind.com (code will become available soon on our website as well) for text alerts of announcements, homework assignments, and other important info!



Mr. Quatrone setting up the classroom for the school year!



Don Pedro Albizu Campos School

499 W. 133rd St
New York, NY

Main Office Phone: 212-690-5945

Fax: 917-507-0524

Psms161.org



Acknowledgement

I have thoroughly read and discussed the contents of this newsletter/ syllabus with my child

(Print Student Name). I hereby sign in acknowledgement that I agree with its contents and know what is expected of myself and my child. If there are any changes to what has been outlined in this document, either Ms. Hawkins or Mr. Quatrone will notify the student and the parent/guardian of the new implementation and require signature of acknowledgement of new policy or procedure. Any violation of the rules, or expectations set forth in this document will be subject to the appropriate actions as constituted in the school's policy.

Parent/Guardian Name—Print

Student Name—Print

Parent/Guardian Name—Signature

Student Name—Signature

Preferred means for contact

Date: _____
Parent/Guardian

Date: _____
Student

Please cut out this acknowledgement form and have your child return to Ms. Hawkins and/or Mr. Quatrone by Friday, September 18th, 2015. Thanks!