

*Tools & Tips for Language Arts Success  
in Mrs. Beran's Room*

- *Write down Daily Agenda in School Planner:*  
Use HMWK Box or label HMWK clearly...  
take this home every night to review

***-Take Advantage of Technology Resources:***

My Website: (found under staff link of the  
Scott Middle School Home page)  
[www.mrsridder.com](http://www.mrsridder.com)

McGraw Hill Student Account Login:  
type "Wonders" on LPS search bar:  
<https://helium.lps.org/oauth2/>

Synergy ParentVue Grade Check:  
(check for missing work on regular basis):  
<https://synergyvue.lps.org/>

***Language Arts Grading:***

*Weighted Categories*

- 40% - Reading Comprehension
- 30% - Writing/Grammar/Word Analysis
- 10% - Spelling/Vocabulary/Speaking & Listening
- 20% - Formative Assessments  
(Weekly Practice Work & Homework)

***Required Personal Reading Book Project  
Presentations***

- \*\*Read a book (fiction, non-fiction, or biography)  
throughout each 5 week Unit (6 units during year)
- \*\*Pick High-Interest and On-Level Books, stick with  
it and complete the book within the 5 weeks
- \*\*Share what you love about the book (Project form)
- \*\*Think about author's perspective, purpose, point of  
view
- \*\*Help others to become avid readers ☺

***- Complete Daily  
Homework:***  
The Weekly Homework  
Schedule Includes:

***Monday-Thursday:***

Work on/Study  
Vocabulary Words

- (8 words a week)
- See Unit Vocab Packet
- Find Definitions using  
Wonders Anthology or  
Student Account
- Synonms/Antonyms  
can be found using:  
Dictionary.com  
Thesaurus .com

***Friday & Weekend:***  
Independent Reading  
(60 minutes preferred)

\*\*Weekends are designed  
to Independently Read  
those books for Book  
Projects.

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Dear Family,

Lincoln Public Schools is excited to be using new reading materials, called *Wonders*, across the district this year. These materials are based on 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and expectations. The rigor of these materials will be especially apparent as the year begins. Since students do not have the background, they may experience some “productive struggle” at the onset. It is especially important that students get lots of encouragement as they grow into the new expectations. In piloting these materials last year we saw students experiencing a lot of difficulty first quarter, showing improvement at second quarter, and finding success in higher levels of reading and thinking by second semester. The confidence that develops in taking on a challenge and succeeding with hard work is a life lesson that we want all of our students to experience.

Some changes you will notice this year include increased use of informational text, use of multiple texts on a topic to compare and contrast information, and rereading texts to interpret meaning. Comprehension will require not only remembering facts, but also inferring the author’s meaning, integrating themes across multiple reading passages, and analyzing authors craft and structure.

Assessments in grades 2-6 will include not only multiple choice questions, but questions that require students to provide an organized written analysis using evidence from the text for their thinking. Technology will be used at all levels for whole group lessons, for reading and writing, for practice games and activities, and for assessment.

Teachers have been working this summer to ensure that support strategies are in place for all students in this transition. It is also important that families encourage and support students as they stretch to meet new standards. We appreciate you working with us this year to make your child’s experience in reading a rewarding challenge. If you have questions, please e-mail your child’s teacher or principal, or contact me at [ksaund@lps.org](mailto:ksaund@lps.org) or call at 402-436-1804 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Karen D. Saunders  
Curriculum Specialist for  
K-6 Reading/Language Arts

\*\*Each student has an online account with McGraw Hill that they can access by using the link on the front of this sheet. As with anything, the more they practice and try out things on their account the better they will become at being successful readers.