

- 1) Current events will **never** be accepted after the due date, for any reason. Students have several weeks to complete current events each quarter. There is no reason for them to be late.
- 2) All students in 6th, 7th and 8th grade are required to complete four (4) current events each quarter.
- 3) The focus in 6th grade science is Earth Science. Articles that reflect this type of science will count as two. If all articles done in 6th grade are those that deal with Earth Science, the student will only need to complete eight articles for the year (2 per quarter). Topics that would be related to Earth Science would include: meteorology, space, oceans, fossils, rocks/minerals, glaciers, the environment and any other topics found in the textbook.
- 4) The focus in science in 7th grade is Life science (biology). Articles that reflect this type of science will count as two. If all articles done in 7th grade are those that deal with Life Science, the student will only need to complete eight articles for the year (2 per quarter). Topics that would be related to Life science would include: health, fitness, medicine, plants, the body, animals and any other topics found in the textbook.
- 5) The focus in science in 8th grade is Physical science. Articles that reflect this type of science will count as two. If all articles done in 8th grade are those that deal with Physical science, the student will only need to complete eight articles for the year (2 per quarter). Topics that would be related to Physical Science would include: atoms, elements, nuclear energy, states of matter, motion, forces and any other topics found in the textbook.
- 6) Current events may be turned in at any time before the due date. These dates should be indicated in the student's agenda. Articles should be placed in the box labeled "Current Events", on the black cabinet in the Science Lab.
- 7) See the example on the opposite side of this paper, which indicates exactly how current events are to be done. Note that the summary is put into **your own words** and not copied directly from the article. It is helpful to read the article thoroughly, highlight the important points in each paragraph and then summarize it in your own words. It would be most helpful to keep this sheet for help in the future. Please refer to it when completing the articles.
- 8) Although current events are not weighted as heavily as other homework and tests, failure to complete them, in most cases, will result in the loss of at least one letter grade on the report card.
- 9) Current events may be done on the computer, or by hand on loose leaf.
- 10) You may obtain articles from the newspaper, a magazine or the internet. If the article is too large to fit on the front sheet of the paper on which it is summarized, it should be attached to the back of the sheet. If the article is too large to fit on the back, it is to be folded to the size of the sheet of paper, and clipped neatly.
- 10) Current Event due dates are as follows: Trimester 1 – October 15, 2013*
Trimester 2 – February 11, 2014*
Trimester 3 – May 6, 2014*

***Current events for each quarter will not be accepted after the due date.**

12) The point of current events is to learn what is happening in the world around you. Please take advantage of the assignment. Happy learning!

Joe Schmoe

(Correct heading)

August 10, 2012

SOURCE: St. Petersburg Times (Indicates where the article was found)

DATE: July 29, 2012 (Indicates when the article was found)

TITLE: Hands-only CPR, pushy dispatchers are lifesavers (Title of article)

SUMMARY: (A brief description of what the article is about, written in your own words)

Research shows that bystanders are more likely to perform chest compressions if they are not expected to perform mouth to mouth resuscitation as well. They are also more likely to attempt to save a life if they are given direct instructions from a dispatcher who does not bother to ask if they are willing to perform CPR. Over the past couple of years, the American Heart Association has advocated the practice of hands-on compressions alone, stating that more lives would be likely to be saved using such a technique. Not only is this technique simple, but since statistics show that more bystanders would be likely to attempt it, there is the possibility that many more victims could be saved. The recommended technique requires approximately 100 compressions per minute. Some experts suggest the number of compressions follow the beat of the tune Stayin' Alive. Two studies found that there was no significant difference in the survival rate between those using the traditions CPR method and those using just the hands-on technique.

(Spelling should be correct; neatness counts)

Article is cut out neatly, and placed here, or on the back of this page.

Middle School Summer Reading Assignment 2016---2017

Read **one** of the listed books. Keep a reading journal which includes the following for each chapter:

? Write a question that you have about the text.

= A connection you feel to the text or strong feelings you have towards a particular scene.

P predict what you think will happen

S summarize what is happening in the chapter.

C characterization: the concept of creating characters for a narrative. It is presented to readers by description, through their actions, speech, thoughts, and interactions with other characters. Write about a character and something you learned about him/her through characterization.

Reading journals will be due the first day of school 8/10/2016. Once school begins students may be required to complete additional assignments/projects based on their summer reading book. This can be done in a composition book. Once graded I will return it and we will continue to use the composition book in my class as a journal.

Example Journal

Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson
Chapter 1

Mrs. Althoff

?: In chapter 1 the first question that comes to mind is what has happened to the main character Cole Matthew to make him such a mean and angry person. This leads me to the question of if throughout the book he will be able to change and become a better more likeable person.

=: I can connect to this chapter in the way that I have felt angry and frustrated before so I can relate to his anger a little bit. Mostly I feel hopeful that Cole can change. Once the author reveals what his parents are like I immediately feel like he has been abused and probably feels unloved. It makes me hopeful that when he finds a connection and experiences love and acceptance he will become a better person. I believe people can change and hope it happens in this book!

P: I predict that something will happen in this book that will make Cole change and see all the things he has done and feel remorse for them. I predict it will have to be something big to change a kid like him. I also predict we will learn more about his victim Peter.

S: In this chapter Cole is headed somewhere on a boat with two men that seem to be guarding him. We learn that he is a troubled teenager with a lot of anger. The chapter also includes a flashback from when he was in a detention center. We learn that he has been in trouble many times before and that he has attacked a smaller kid at school and beat him up so badly that he has brain damage. It seems like maybe he is going to a camp or something for really bad kids. We learn a little bit about his parents and we see that his parents are abusive and alcoholics and that probably has a lot to do with who he is.

C: In this chapter we learn so many things about the main character Cole. We learn mostly from his thoughts. He is describing the bad things he has done in a very cold way. He is thinking about the victim and the attack in a proud way. He thinks it was payback for rattling him out and that the hurt boy deserved it. We also see him lying to his probation officers to make them think he is sorry to get his way. He thinks everything is a game and cares about no one.

Books to choose from:

Touching Spirit Bear by Ben Mikaelson

15 year of Cole Matthews has been fighting and stealing his entire life. The punishment for smashing Peter Driscall's skull into the sidewalk-his most recent crime- is harsh. This time Cole will have to choose between prison and Native American Circle Justice. He will live either behind bars or in isolation for one year. Cole chooses circle justice. But in the first days of his banishment to a remote Alaskan island, he is mauled by a mysterious white bear and nearly dies. Will the attack destroy Cole's life or save his soul?

Mockingbird by Kathryn Erskine

In Caitlin's world, everything is black or white. Things are good or bad. Anything in between is confusing. That's the stuff Caitlin's older brother, Devon, has always explained. But now Devon's dead and Dad is no help at all. Caitlin wants to get over it, but as an eleven-year-old girl with Asperger's, she doesn't know how. When she reads the definition of closure, she realizes that is what she needs. In her search for it, Caitlin discovers that not everything is black and white—the world is full of colors—messy and beautiful

Challenger Deep by Neil Shusterman

Caden Bosch is on a ship that's headed for the deepest point on Earth: Challenger Deep, the southern part of the Marianas Trench.

Caden Bosch is a brilliant high school student whose friends are starting to notice his odd behavior.

Caden Bosch is designated the ship's artist in residence, to document the journey with images.

Caden Bosch pretends to join the school track team but spends his days walking for miles, absorbed by the thoughts in his head.

Caden Bosch is split between his allegiance to the captain and the allure of mutiny.

Caden Bosch is torn.

(6th and 8th only) Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

A loving threesome, they ranged the dark hills and river bottoms of Cherokee country. Old Dan had the brawn. Little Ann had the brains, and Billy had the will to make them into the finest hunting team in the valley. Glory and victory were coming to them, but sadness waited too. Where the Red Fern Grows is an exciting tale of love and adventure you'll never forget.

Stand Tall by Joan Bauer

At age 12, Tree stands 6' 3 1/2" and not much makes sense — why his parents are getting divorced, why he's terrible on the basketball court — but he begins to find his purpose helping Grandpa...and then comes Sophie, an older, bolder girl at school with a motto and a mission.

"An eloquent story of ordinary heroes."

HOPE WAS HERE BY JOAN BAUER

When Hope and her aunt move to small-town Wisconsin to take over the local diner, Hope's not sure what to expect. But what they find is that the owner, G.T., isn't quite ready to give up yet - in fact, he's decided to

run for mayor against a corrupt candidate. And as Hope starts to make her place at the diner, she also finds herself caught up in G.T.'s campaign - particularly his visions for the future. After all, as G.T. points out, everyone can use a little hope to help get through the tough times... even Hope herself.

Bud, Not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

It's 1936, in Flint, Michigan. Times may be hard, and ten-year-old Bud may be a motherless boy on the run, but Bud's got a few things going for him:1. He has his own suitcase filled with his own important, secret things.2. He's the author of Bud Caldwell's Rules and Things for Having a Funner Life and Making a Better Liar Out of Yourself.3. His momma never told him who his father was, but she left a clue: flyers of Herman E. Calloway and his famous band, the Dusky Devastators of the Depression!!!!!!Bud's got an idea that those flyers will lead him to his father. Once he decides to hit the road and find this mystery man, nothing can stop him--not hunger, not fear, not vampires, not even Herman E. Calloway himself .

Summer Social Studies/Religion Assignments

Social Studies

Create your own travel brochure featuring somewhere you visit this summer (it can be someplace local!)

Include the following in your brochure:

- *Brief summary of where you visited*
- *Location, including a map*
- *Geography*
- *Well-Known places*
- *Historic Sites and Landmarks*
- *Recreation and outdoor activities*
- *Entertainment*
- *Climate and weather conditions*
- *Transportation*
- *Arts and culture, including museums, theaters, places to visit*
- *Language or local dialect*
- *Food the area is known for*
- *Pictures/Graphics*

Use good writing skills to convince a reader why they should visit!

Let your creativity take over and have fun with this!

Religion

Don't get lazy over the summer! Go to church every Sunday☺

Enjoy your summer and I look forward to seeing everyone in August!

Mrs. Tarcza

