

English and Literature with Ms. Potter

Fall 2018

“Another fall, another turned page: there was something of jubilee in that annual autumnal beginning, as if last year’s mistakes had been wiped clean by summer.”

Wallace
Stegner

Welcome back! I’m looking forward to all this year will hold, and we already have plenty of exciting lessons and activities to keep us busy in the coming months!

- **September 1** – I was thrilled to see so many of our middle school students at National Book Festival in Washington, D.C. this year. So many students were excited to find new books, meet their favorite authors, and get their books signed.
- **September 13** – Roald Dahl Day is always a fun beginning to the school year, and I know the students will have fun with his creepy short stories.
- **September 21** – Grammar police applications are due again, and I’m hopeful that we’ll recruit a few good recruits from our academy.
- **September 23-29** – We’ll be celebrating Banned Books Week again this year by learning about and exercising our First Amendment rights.
- **October 1** – The first round of projects is due! The sixth grade will be designing next year’s National Book Festival poster, the seventh grade will be choosing a book from the Great American Read list to champion, and the eighth grade will be choosing a Great American Read to kick off the list and suggesting a replacement.
- **October** – During the tenth month, we’ll of course be working towards Halloween (my favorite holiday!) by studying Edgar Allan Poe, Alfred Hitchcock, Neil Gaiman, Stephen King, and others.

Class Highlights

Sixth – We’ll be focusing on the building blocks of writing and grammar for the first quarter of English, while for literature we’ll be focusing on plot analysis and story elements.

Seventh – We’re going to intensify our paragraph writing skills to craft a perfect paragraph, plus work on understanding and recognizing figurative language.

Eighth – Before high school, we’re going to ensure that we’re comfortable with all different types of writing, and we’ll be reading increasingly complex texts to analyze.

Meet the Teacher

My name is Haley Potter, and I’m so happy to begin my sixth year of teaching at St. Peter’s. This is actually the fifteenth school year that I’ve spent at the school, as I also attended St. Peter’s! I continued my education at Villanova University, where I graduated with dual degrees in English and honors with a writing and rhetoric concentration and minors in Spanish, sociology, and gender and women’s studies. I have since earned my master’s degree in leadership in teaching, and I’m currently looking into programs for a second. I feel so lucky to have a job that feeds my passions, such as reading; writing nonfiction, poetry, and short stories; and learning new things. I hope to pass along those interests to my students and help them to not just know how to read and write well but to enjoy it as well.

