



# English and literature

Ms. Potter



“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.”  
– Anne Bradstreet

## General Updates:

*The students are continuing to do great work this year using their Chromebooks and the new technology that we have! We've been able to read lots of interesting new texts and work more collaboratively on exciting projects. Our vocabulary and spelling program is still strong, and we're looking forward to the Charles County Spelling Bee in February. I have the utmost confidence in our spellers, especially because the competition was so fierce in the classroom and school bee rounds! I'm very excited to see what the rest of the winter brings!*

## Middle School English

All three middle school classes will continue their grammar study chapter-by-chapter, supplementing this work with plenty of writing assignments for additional practice. All three grades will be participating in a letter-writing campaign to raise money for the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and we're always on the hunt for writing contests to enter!

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** The students will continue to polish their nature-set short stories before turning their pens to character analysis essays and argumentative essays.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade:** The students will be writing a comparative essay between two texts before turning to literary analysis and creative rewrites of science fiction. They'll eventually be working on resume writing and professional correspondence as well.

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade:** With our personal statement essay practice out of the way, we'll be moving onto a fun cause and effect essay using a podcast as the main source material before trying our hands at writing our own poems, plus preparing a few different styles of speeches utilizing rhetorical techniques.



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Currently Reading:** *Maus* by Art Spiegelman

**Current Project:** Music video based on a book

**Next Up:** *Beowulf*

**Next Project:** Poet biography project

**After That:** *Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare

**Last Project:** TED Talks

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade is wrapping up their unit on World War II by taking an in-depth look into graphic novels and political cartoons before putting one of the characters in *Maus* on trial for figurative murder. Afterwards, we'll be kicking off our poetry unit by focusing specifically on African-American poetry in honor of Black History Month before segueing into *Beowulf* and Shakespearean sonnets. Just in time for the Ides of March, we'll study *Julius Caesar* and organize political campaigns on behalf of Caesar's enemies and allies. We'll wrap up the year with a dive into the symbolism of horror and *Things Not Seen*.



## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Currently Reading:** *The Egypt Game* by Zilpha Keatley Snyder

**Current Project:** Music video based on a book

**Next Up:** *The Giver* by Lois Lowry

**Next Project:** Board game based on a book

**After That:** *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell

**Last Project:** 20 Year High School Reunion

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade is examining *the Egypt Game* through its historical context of the civil rights movement and writing proposals for holidays celebrating their heroes in honor of MLK Day. Then we'll begin a unit on sci-fi, which will include *The Twilight Zone* and Ray Bradbury. For the final project of the year, students will write resumes and mini-bios of their future selves, so we'll be examining plenty of nonfiction.



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Currently Reading:** *Wringer* by Jerry Spinelli

**Current Project:** Talk show/News segment about a book

**Next Up:** *Eggs* by Jerry Spinelli

**Next Project:** Book publisher pitch

**After That:** *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* by E.L. Konigsburg

**Last Project:** Comic book adaptation

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade is in the middle of a unit on turning points and examining how one decision can have big consequences. Afterwards, we'll compare two books by Jerry Spinelli and look at egg idioms in time for Easter before turning to the intersection of art and literature with E.L. Konigsburg. We'll wrap up the year with *Holes* by Louis Sachar!

### About Me:

My name is Haley Potter, and this is my fifth year teaching at St. Peter's. I am also a graduate of St. Peter's, so it is a great experience to be back as a teacher! I attended Villanova University and graduated with degrees in English and Honors, as well as a concentration in writing and rhetoric and minors in Spanish, sociology, and gender and women's studies. I just received my master's in leadership in teaching, and I'm now looking into a second master's degree to keep myself busy! I love to read, and both creative and informative writing have always been passions, so I'm very happy to be able to share those interests with my students!

