

Welcome to English, a window into your imagination!

My classroom is an exciting yet challenging learning environment that provides all with an opportunity to learn, excel, and grow, not only as writers, but also as servants and missionaries of Christ. The curriculum is designed to challenge their abilities and build on the foundations already begun in elementary school. Students are expected to be able to master the skills presented and apply them in their writing.

In order to establish a safe learning environment, students are to obey the rules set forth in the handbook and are expected to be polite, respectful, diligent, punctual and organized.

Assignments are discussed each Monday and posted online. It is very important to me that this school year be a team effort. Parents play an extremely important and active role in their child's education. Please check online often for progress in class, news, homework, or any other announcements. If your student struggles with anything, or you have questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at jconnally@stdominicmobile.org.

The class covers a wide variety of topics including grammar, vocabulary, spelling, poetry, and composition. Here are just a few of the fun things we will do in my class during the third quarter:

6th graders: This year, these students have already written various original types of poetry and have completed a historical fiction narrative journal about life in the mid-1850s. Now, they are learning how to navigate the five-paragraph essay format and how to construct a thesis sentence. Their writing assignments this quarter will include a descriptive expository essay and some creative writing as well. They are also learning how to use commas correctly in various sentences. In addition, they are memorizing one of Robert Frost's famous poems, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening." They will also learn 60 new vocabulary/spelling words.

7th graders: This year, these students have already completed a literary/film analysis essay, written several types of original poetry, while some others chose to write an original novella during National Novel Writing Month. This quarter, they will be learning how to use commas, semicolons, colons, and apostrophes correctly in their writing. They are also exploring research and analysis methods by completing a heritage and ancestry research project. They will also present their findings to their classmates via PowerPoint or Prezi and write a poem about their family which will be published along with their family's crest. In addition, they will memorize Edgar Allen Poe's poem "El Dorado." They will also be introduced to 60 new vocabulary/spelling words.

8th graders: This year, these students have already completed their first MLA research essay project about a future career, used a hands-on approach to financial literacy, and wrote a descriptive essay about the inspirational people in their lives. This quarter, they will be using the internet to write a collaborative narrative with multiple endings which will then be published online at InkleWriter.com. They will also plan, design, shoot, and edit an interpretative video of one of their favorite poems, which they will then present to the class. For their grammar instruction this quarter, they will be learning to use a variety of punctuation marks including commas, semicolons, colons, apostrophes, ellipses, and hyphens. These students are memorizing Robert Frost's famous poem, "The Road Not Taken." They will also be introduced to 60 new vocabulary/spelling words.

