



# LITERACY ROCKS

## ELA READING in Room 305

*Where readers write, writers read, and learning happens on a sea of talk.*

SEPTEMBER 2018

### Reading Goals

To nurture and create lifelong readers and to build the skills and habits for future success in high school, college, and career, 8<sup>th</sup>-graders will set a variety of worthy reading goals. 8<sup>th</sup>-graders are asked to set a yearlong goal of reading 20 to 50 Books for Pleasure (BFPs). Parents, thank you for those important discussions with your student. We are off to a great start.



### Summer Reading Assessment

We have been busy getting organized and into the routine of our workshop schedule—including reading independently. Last week, students collected their thinking and significant passages from their Summer Reading, to help plan and craft their writing. This week, students will be writing their first letter-essay and conferring with Ms. Durham about the experience.



### About Ms. Durham

I love learning! Especially about how students learn best, which draws me toward student-centered and learning-centered teaching. The workshop approach I've been adapting for my classroom means I do less *assign & assess* and more *cognitive apprenticeship* (a fancy term for one-on-one conferences).

I also believe in modeling what I expect of my students. This summer, I read the books from Brink's Summer Reading list and finished a total of 28 Books for Pleasure.

Other things I love: spending time with family, hiking, travelling, beating my sweet husband at Hand & Foot, and playing with our granddaughter, Ella, who just turned 2!



### THANK YOU:

- Several parents have been generous with sending classroom supplies. I'm so grateful, but they came at a time when names were jingling around in my head. If I have not thanked you personally, please know I appreciate you!
- Letters to Ms. Durham, helping her to get to know your teens, are flowing in. Thank you for taking the time to share a few words. I haven't been able to write back to each note, but I'm so grateful to learn about my students from your perspective.



### HOW PARENTS / GUARDIANS CAN HELP:

- Write a letter to Ms. Durham about your child-for bonus points.
- Model reading for pleasure in your home.
- Read with your teen.
- Ask your teen about their Book for Pleasure (BFP).
- Feel free to contact Ms. Durham with your questions and concerns (see below).

**HOMEWORK: READ  
30 MINUTES A  
NIGHT.**

Please visit [www.mooreschools.com/shellydurham](http://www.mooreschools.com/shellydurham) for assignment information, cool links, and highlights from our classroom. Contact Shelly Durham with your questions and concerns at [shellydurham@mooreschools.com](mailto:shellydurham@mooreschools.com) or 405-209-6324.