Greetings everyone! I’m Mr. Mulhern, and I’m very excited to join the staff of Global Arts Plus as your official 8th grade Language Arts instructor! I have taught the last five years at Art & Science Academy in Isanti, where I was a founding teacher. Like Global Arts, our school followed the arts integration model, so I am well versed in this as an educational philosophy. I bring years of experience in acting, writing, directing and producing for theater, which is a major passion of mine! Global Arts Plus follows the middle school model, laid out by SPPS below:

‘Saint Paul Public Schools is committed to providing a successful middle school model that supports students during a key transition time in their lives. We believe that our young adolescents deserve a middle school experience that is developmentally responsive, challenging, empowering and equitable...In the middle school model, teachers in core subject areas collaborate as a team to meet the social-emotional and academic needs of a common group of students and includes:

- Grades 6-8
- Student-centered teaching
- Seven periods with electives, and a Foundations Advisory class’

**Class Expectations and rules:**
*Students should come prepared to learn, listen and have productive discussions each day.
*Students will be expected to read and engage with new texts, develop reading stamina and work on improving fluency, think creatively and critically, and practice conventions of grammar.
*There will be no tolerance of put-downs, negative talk or exclusion. Our class will be an inclusive and safe space for all 8th graders, one where students can take risks and make mistakes without worrying about the result.
*Students will always be expected to take care of classroom materials and clean up after themselves.

**Grading Policy/Homework**
*We will follow the typical grading scale (93-100% = A, 90-92% =A-, 83-89% =B, etc.).
*Students may turn in work up to two weeks after an assignment’s due date to receive credit. An assignment that is not turned in will be graded as incomplete.
*Work that is not completed during class time may be treated as homework.
*Students will be expected to read at home on a daily basis, track their pages and reflect on their reading. This can, at times, include reading for other courses.

**Course Policies**
*Absences: It is the student’s responsibility to make up work they missed due to absences and complete it in a timely fashion.
*Passing time: Students are given three minutes between classes. It is their responsibility to be to class with their materials on time. Those who are late will be marked tardy.
*Food and drinks are not permitted in the classroom unless otherwise noted. Students are allowed to bring water bottles to class.
*Cell phones are not permitted in class or during instruction unless otherwise noted.
*iPads and other technology are property of Global Arts Plus and must be treated as such. If students are not utilizing the technology responsibly, they may lose technology privileges.
*Students will be allowed to check out books from the class library for a set period of time. We will also make class visits to the school library to check out materials.
Materials
Students should bring the following to class:
* Binder/class notebook
* Pencils or pens
* Independent reading book(s)

8th Grade Language Arts Basic Trajectory and Assessments
Quarter 1:
* Textual Lineage: What is a timeline of our own personal reading history, and how can we expand going forward?
* Memoir Writing: What is something compelling that has happened in our lives and how can we present it as a story?
Quarter 2:
* Nonfiction Study: How can we suspend judgment on an issue as we research, weigh and evaluate ideas and information presented across texts, and carefully consider the strength of arguments?
* Position Paper: How can we use research to assist us in preparing and presenting an argument?
Quarter 3:
* Dystopian Book Club: How do we avoid the mistakes of the past to help create a better tomorrow?
* Literary Essay: What can novels teach us about the world and ourselves?
Quarter 4:
* Poetry and Close Reading: How can we read a text closely to determine its meaning and a character’s point of view?
* Investigative Journalism: What are the ways that journalism can be used as a tool for change?

Readers/Writers Workshop Model
St. Paul Public Schools and Global Arts Academy uses the Readers and Writers Workshop model. On a typical day, we will have a brief topic introduction followed by 10-15 minutes of teacher instruction, 25-30 minutes of workshop time (independent work, partner work, conferring with a teacher or small group activities) and a five minute share or wrap up as class comes to an end.

PLEASE CUT OUT AND RETURN THE BOTTOM SIGNED PORTION ONLY! THANK YOU!

I have read and agree to follow the guidelines of the above syllabus for Mr. Mulhern’s Language Arts class.

Parent/Guardian Signature: ____________________________ Date: _____

Parent Guardian email/phone: ________________________________

Student name (print): ________________________________________

Student name (signed): __________________________ Date: _____