Hello GAP families! Welcome to 7th grade! My name is Ms. Olivia Williams, and I am thrilled to be your 7th grade ELA (English Language Arts) teacher.

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Phone (texts only): (612) 568-2635

Here’s a look at what we’ll be studying this year!

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**The Workshop Model:** St. Paul Public Schools use the workshop model in 6-8 Language Arts classes. That means we blend time, student choice, response/feedback, and expert instruction to learn & practice the habits of expert readers & writers. Class periods are commonly structured to begin with a short mini-lesson; plenty of work time for independent reading and writing practice; and end with sharing to build a true literary community.

**Arts Integration:** At Global Arts Plus, students learn in and through the arts. In ELA, our biggest arts-integrated unit is poetry in Q4, where students create and publish chapbooks and perform poetry for their peers.

**Grading:** This class assigns letter grades using an ABCDNP scale. 60% of the grade is based on summative tasks like projects, essays, presentations, and tests; 30% of the grade is based on formative work like class activities. 10% of the grade is participation (notebook checks, warmups, discussion points, homework).

**Homework:** To build study skills, I will assign a weekly homework assignment that builds language skills and writing fluency. Students should read at home as much as possible to see faster progress.

Final grade scale: 
- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- NP = Below 59%.
In general, students who earn grades in the B-range are MEETING 7th-GRADE STANDARDS in English/Language Arts. (Students earning grades in the A-range are working toward 8th-grade standards).

**Late Work:** I will accept late work for each unit until that unit’s summative assessment is due. Assignments will be marked as missing with a 0 until they are submitted and I have time to grade them. I deduct 10% of points for late work to support students in building strong work habits. I will not grade late participation points. If you need an extension on work, come and talk to me or send me an email.

**Materials:** A school supplies list for the whole school has been posted on the school website. 7th-graders will be writing regularly in ELA. This will include writing in a variety of genres, completing reading responses, participating in partnerships and small groups, giving speeches, strengthening academic vocabulary, using the writing process, and maintaining an ELA notebook. To support this work, students will need:

- a **composition notebook** (no spiral) for ELA class
- pencil or pen (blue/black ink)
- iPad **(fully charged at home each day and brought to class)**
- folder for returned assignments/loose papers
- independent reading book (paper or on iPad)

**Content Concerns:** Seventh graders engage in material that may discuss difficult content. If you have any concerns about content for your 7th grader, please contact me so I can support your student.

I have read the syllabus, and understand what is expected of me/my 7th grader in ELA this year.

Student name: ______________________________
Student signature: ______________________________
Adult signature: ______________________________