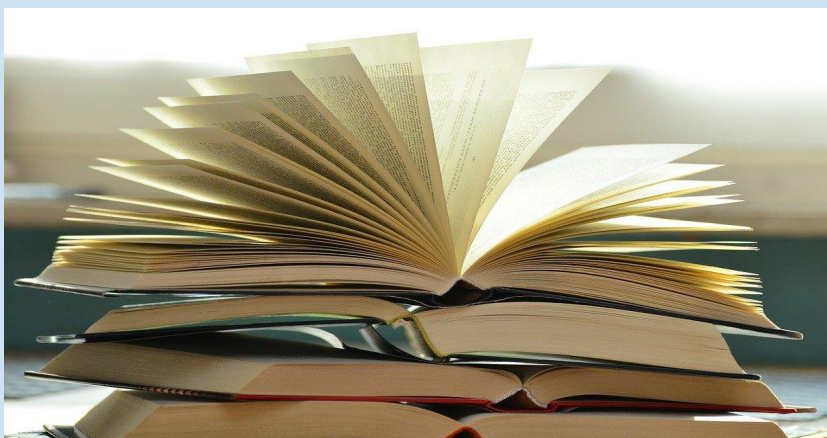


English Language Arts Grades 6,7&8 Mrs. Amy Wirth

I have been a teacher for 25 years. After graduating from Saint Bonaventure University in New York State with a BA in Elementary Education, I married my husband, moved to Pittsburgh and began working at Saint Sebastian School teaching third grade. While I was teaching, I earned my Master's degree from Duquesne University becoming a certified reading specialist for grades K-12.

I have had the privilege to teach at Saint James since 2014.

I enjoy reading (of course!), gardening, hiking, crochet and walking my dog, while constantly trying to learn new ways to engage middle school students to develop and share my life-long love of reading and writing.



Course Description

~This language arts class is designed to continue building communication skills through reading, writing, speaking, and the study of the English language. Our primary focus in language arts class is the mastery of different writing styles, demonstration of the rules of grammar, and the ability to express yourself effectively through various mediums of communication in direct correspondence to the Diocesan Curriculum.

~ We read a variety of fiction and non-fiction text including novels, short stories, dramas, poetry, and essays.

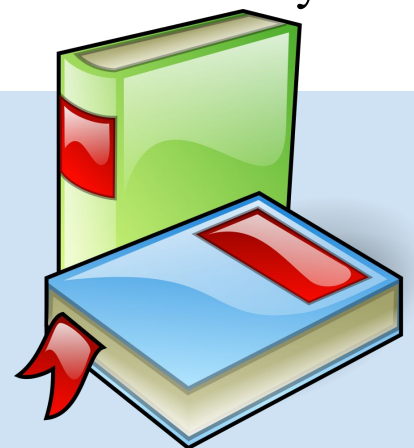
~ Writing assignments include journal writing, essays, and creative pieces.

~ Vocabulary, spelling, and supplemental grammar assignments are an important part of this class.

~Because we are a community of learners, students can also expect to work periodically in cooperative learning situations and to present information to their peers in collaborative teams as well as individually.

Topics of Study

- 6 Traits of Writing (ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions) + presentation
- Effective Communication Skills (listening, speaking, and viewing)
- Elements of Poetry
- Literary Terms
- Mechanics & Standard Grammar
- Narrative, Expository/Informative (descriptive, explanation, comparison and contrast, problem/solution), and Persuasive Writing
- Parts of Speech
- Presentation Techniques
- Reading Process
- Reading Strategies
- Research Skills
- Select whole class novels
- Vocabulary Development through Greek/Latin Root Study and vocabulary taken from context



Latin and Greek Roots

The Rooted Mind-Scholarly Enrichment Programs are used to learn and master Latin and Greek roots.

Students are taught to look within the word to find its meaning.

Complex words are not as confusing when you break them down and recognize the roots within them.

-fy, fact-, -fect

(Latin *facere*)

make, do, build, cause

Constructed Word

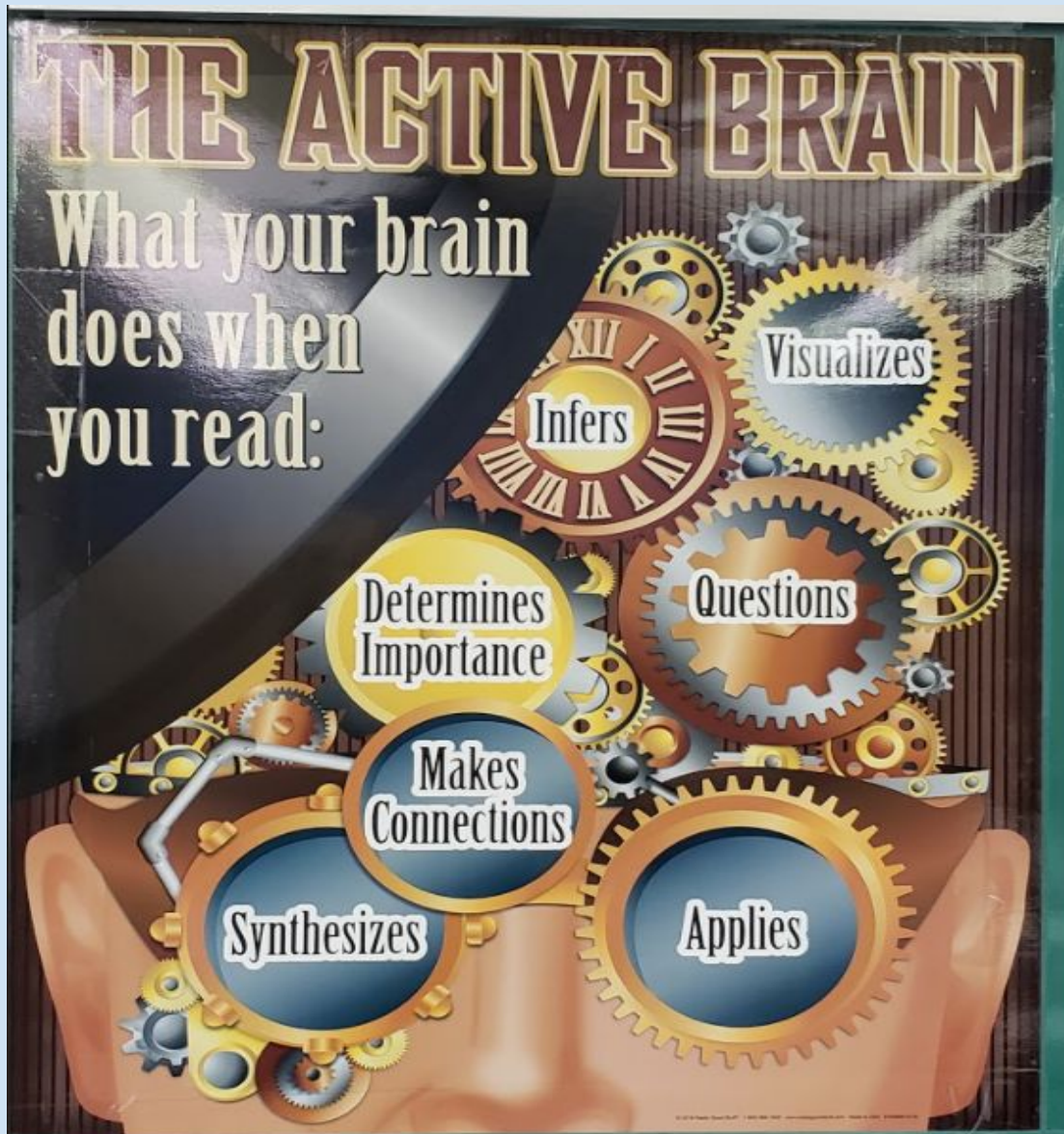
Definition

pacify*	to <u>make</u> (-fy) or restore <u>peace</u> (paci-); soothe
infect	to <u>do</u> (-fect) <u>in</u> (in- ²) with a disease; contaminate
manufacture	<u>the process of</u> (-ure) <u>making</u> (fact-) something by <u>hand</u> (manu-)
perfect	to <u>do</u> (-fect) <u>thoroughly</u> (per-) without any flaws or defects; excellent; without mistakes
unify*	to <u>make</u> (-fy) into <u>one</u> (uni-)

Reading Response Notebooks

Students are held accountable for their required independent reading through the practice of journaling. Students respond weekly to a variety of prompts where they have the opportunity to apply the literacy skills that are taught in class.

This weekly routine has become a favorite activity because students are responding to a novel of their own choosing, and have a choice in their response activities.



We Live Our Faith

Grade 8 Religion

Using the Sadlier We Live Our Faith series, students reflect and grow as members of the Catholic church. Students are given the opportunity to attend and participate in weekly mass, receive daily instruction and pray together throughout the day. Additionally, students in Eighth Grade prepare to receive the sacrament of Confirmation.

