

WELCOME TO ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE'S  
BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

Di Shepp 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Homeroom Teacher  
September 12, 2019

“Teach Us Wisdom, Teach Us Love”

*SMS School Theme—2019-2020*

# *Some Notes about Mrs. Shepp*

- ◉ *I was born in Seattle.*
- ◉ *I attended St. Edward's Grade School, Holy Names Academy, and received my teaching certificate from WSU; Go Cougs!!*
- ◉ *I also attended Western Wash. University and Seattle University, and received my Continuing Certificate from UW and SPU.*
- ◉ *I've taught for 40 + Years; 35 years in the Archdiocese of Seattle; 2 years in the Diocese of San Diego; 4 years in the Auburn School District.*
- ◉ *I've taught mostly Grades 5-8 in: Religion, Writing/Reading, Math, Soc. Studies, Science, Computers, Art, Music, Yearbook, and Journalism.*
- ◉ *For a few years, I also worked as a K-8 Reading Specialist in the Archdiocese of Seattle.*



# *My Family*



- ◉ *HUSBAND—BOB---married 28 years*
- ◉ *MOM—98 \*\*DAD(Home with God)*
- ◉ *SISTER-JUDY(retired teacher in CA)*
- ◉ *SISTER-LYNNE(TWIN)—nurse in Bellevue*
- ◉ *BROTHER-RICHARD—Social Worker in San Diego*



# *Favorite Hobbies*

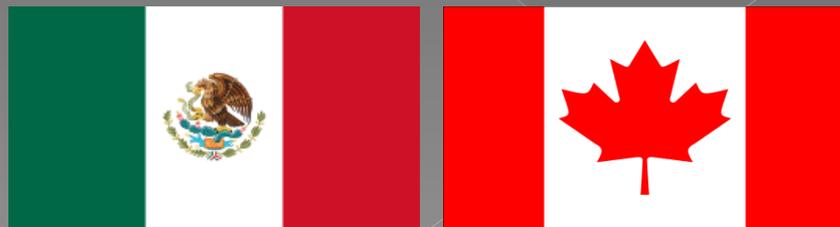
- *YOGA*
- *DANCING*
- *SINGING*
- *DRAWING*
- *PAINTING*
- *WALKING*
- *READING*
- *BAKING*





# *Travel Adventures*

- ◉ *HAWAII— ALL ISLANDS*
- ◉ *CANADA, MEXICO*
- ◉ *SAN JUAN ISLANDS*
- ◉ *LIVED IN SAN DIEGO & SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA FOR 5 YEARS*
- ◉ *MOST FAVORITE—SEATTLE!*



# ***Favorite Things***

- ◉ ***COLOR-RED***
- ◉ ***FOOD-ALL VEGETABLES***
- ◉ ***T.V. SHOW—FOOD NETWORK***
- ◉ ***PLACESAN JUANS/PALM DESERT***



# *SMS Learning Expectations 2019-2020*

*St. Madeleine School Students' are learning new ways to incorporate these SLE's each year:*

- ◉ *SERVE*
- ◉ *LEAD*
- ◉ *LOVE*
- ◉ *LEARN*

*.....And one whose attitudes, values, personal, and spiritual attributes are instilled by our community in faith, hope, and love.*

# 6-7-8 Grade Language Arts

## Curriculum: READING/WRITING/WW GRAMMAR/VOCABULARY

*In Middle School, the philosophy of SMS continues to emphasize that learning is value-based, and we are dedicated to life-long growth in faith, love and learning.*

*In Language Arts, learning is designed to promote the creative, intellectual, social, psychological and emotional growth of each unique child in these areas:*

- ◉ **LITERATURE**
- ◉ **WRITINGGRAMMAR**
- ◉ **VOCABULARY/AR**

*We strive at SMS to be effective writers and communicators that are role models for the entire school, and in their future years .*

### Trimester 1:

- ◉ **Reading Skills:** Short Story Unit; Novels; ITBS Testing ; Book Talk ; AR Points; Comprehension and Vocabulary Skills; Non-Fiction; Advent & Christmas Plays.
- ◉ **Writing Skills:** Pre-Assess; Grammar Review: 8 parts of Speech; Capitalization and Punctuation Review; Student Essay Portfolios; 6 + 1 Trait Writing; Thanksgiving Poetry; Narrative and Expository Essay Writing; Speech/Debate/Drama.

### Trimester 2:

- ◉ **Reading Skills:** Non-Fiction and Drama Unit; Novels; Martin Luther King Unit; Book Talk; AR Points; Vocabulary Skills.
- ◉ **Writing Skills:** Grammar Review: 8 parts of Speech; Sentence Structure and Paragraph Review; Student Essay Portfolios; 6 + 1 Trait Writing; Advent and Christmas Essays and Poetry; Expository and Persuasive Essay Writing; Speech and Debate.

### Trimester 3:

- ◉ **Reading Skills:** Poetry Unit; Novels; Fables/Myths/Legends Unit; PP Literary Speech Project; AR Points; Vocabulary Skills.
- ◉ **Writing Skills:** Grammar Review: 8 parts of Speech, Sentence and Paragraph Writing; ; Student Essay Portfolios; 6 + 1 Trait Writing; 5<sup>th</sup> Grade End of the Year Research Essay Project; Poetry; Speech and Debate/Drama.

# *SMS School Mission Statement*

- *The mission of St. Madeleine School is to assist Catholic families and the community of St. Luke in the formation of their children as Roman Catholic Christians. We do this in a nurturing community of students, faculty, and staff, parents, alumni and friends. We joyfully witness to the Gospel message with its special concern for the sacredness of each person. We see in our children the many faces of God, and welcome people of diverse cultural, religious and ethnic backgrounds.*
- *We seek to prepare our students for the intellectual and moral challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century through an academically challenging educational program that respects the learning differences of each student, fosters Christian leadership, and promotes service to the needs of others. We hear the prophet Micah's call "...to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with our God..."  
(Mi 6:8) for the transformation of ourselves and the world.*

## *Standards for Middle School Language Arts*

-  *Reading: Text Complexity and the growth of comprehension*
-  *Writing: Text types, responding to reading, and research*
-  *Speaking and Listening: Flexible communication and collaboration*
-  *Language: Conventions, effective use, and vocabulary*

# *Reading & Religion Service Information*

- ◉ *AR Points—10-20 Points each Trimester*
- ◉ *Book Reviews each month*
- ◉ *Literature Circles—each Trimester*
- ◉ *Religion—5-10 Service Hours each Trimester*
- ◉ *Mohammad—Sponsored Child from India*

# GrowthMindset/Grit/Mindfulness

- **Growth Mindset—\*Having a growth mindset means understanding that intelligence can be developed.**

**A growth mindset is a belief that we can get smarter through hard work and practice. It is the opposite of a Fixed Mindset, where we feel like we can't change our behaviors due to the belief that the brain is a fixed non-changing muscle, that we can't control. This means that struggling with something difficult doesn't mean you're not smart—it's a chance to grow your intelligence. Growth mindset is all about trying hard, using good strategies, and getting the help you need.**

- **Grit—Why do some children fail, and others succeed? What separates student's who excel at their c;lasses from students who struggle to pass their classes? Is is a high IQ that pushes students to excel in their classes, or is there something else?**
- **A psychologist and former teacher, Angela Lee Duckworth, has an answer to these questions. After several studies conducted in the military, spelling bees, classrooms, and companies, Angela determined what causes children and adults to excel and succeed; Angela says the one trait that appeared consistent, even from high and low IQ students was: GRIT! She defines grit as "passion and perseverance for very long term goals."**
- **Mindfulness-We know [mindfulness is good for us](#). Mindfulness allows us to be present in our parenting, [choosing the skillful response](#) instead of succumbing to our visceral reactions.**
- **Mindfulness is also [good for our kids](#). There is an [emerging body of research](#) that indicates that mindfulness can help our children improve their abilities to pay attention, to calm down when they are upset, and to make better decisions. In short, it helps with emotional regulation and cognitive focus. Do I even need to ask if you want that for your kids? 😊**

# *Standards-Based Learning, Application and Grading*

-  **Knowledge** (*What they need to know to succeed*)
-  **Reasoning** (*How well they can explain it using evidence*)
-  **Performance/Skills** (*Show and Tell*)
-  **Products** (*Project based with short and long term goals*)

# *Standards-Based Grading*

- ⦿ *4 = Exceeds grade level expectations*
- ⦿ *3 = Meets grade level expectations*
- ⦿ *2 = Needs to strengthen grade level expectations*
- ⦿ *1 = Needs additional help and/or resources to meet grade level expectations*

# *Behavior/Conduct Grade*

- ◉ *4=Superiorly and consistently exhibits positive Christian values in the classroom and playground. Rarely needs guidance.*
- ◉ *3=Generally appropriate behavior, yet needs guidance from time to time.*
- ◉ *2=Meets school standards, yet often requires guidance and reminding.*
- ◉ *1=Frequently fails to follow expected standard of behavior, including occasional infractions of a more serious nature.*

# *Mrs. Shepp's Discipline Policy*

## *Discipline Format*

- > - If students follow the discipline policy of the classroom and school, all life will be well!*

## *Consequences*

- > - Verbal Warning*
- > - Written Time Out-Think sheet Action Plan; Parents notified*
- > - Written Warning; Parents, Teachers, and Principal notified*
- > All the above meet for conference*
- > Questions?*

# Middle School Homework Policy

## *Middle School – Homework Policy*

- *One of our goals as educators is to teach the importance of accountability and responsibility. In Middle School, homework is assigned in most subject areas daily and is always collected the following day, unless otherwise specified (ex. long term assignments and projects). If a student does not have the necessary work with them on the day and time that it is due, they will have 3 days to turn it in, and then receive a zero after the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, if the work is still not complete.*
- *We understand that factors do come into play: sickness, emergencies, etc...and we are flexible in those areas. For example, if a student is sick and unable to complete and hand in his/her work, the student has as many days to turn in work as he/she was sick. If your child is not able to complete an assignment for any other valid reason, simply write a note, send an email, or call the teacher directly saying that he/she was unable to complete it.*
- *Please remember that our goal is to teach accountability, responsibility, organization, and prepare your children for high school. The Middle School team is confident that your child will become more competent through the usage of this system. If you have any further questions or concerns please feel to contact your child's homeroom teacher.*

*We look forward to a great year with your child!*

*Sincerely,*

*Angela Ensminger*

*Diane Shepp*

*Mary Nau*

*Terry MaGuire*

# *Late/Missing Work/Absences*

## *Late Work Policy*

*Assignments are expected to be turned in on the assigned due date. If an assignment is not turned in on time, the grade will be affected for every day it is late. All late work is excepted; until the 3<sup>rd</sup> day, when it will be a “o”. The late work policy is consistent throughout the middle school.*

## *Absences and Tardies*

*It is the student’s responsibility to check with the teacher for make-up work. This includes being absent for an excused event, illness, or any unforeseen event. Students will have one day to make up the work for each day absent. If a student misses a quiz or test, the student will have two days to make up the quiz or test. If the student chooses not to make up the work on time, he/she will not receive points for the work.*

# *Mrs. Shepp's Homework Info.*

- *Please check Mrs. Shepp's website daily for homework.*
- *Homework is posted daily by 3:00 with the students on my website Homework Link for all subjects.*
- *Students are expected to write all homework in their planners daily before they leave.*
- *Students may email me anytime. I normally check my emails starting around 6:30 am until 7:00pm, as well as weekends.*
- *I am happy to print needed materials for students at school, if there is a printer issue at home. Just send a note!*

## *Ways to Contact Mrs. Shepp*

- ◉ *I can be contacted via email:*  
[dshepp@stmadsophie.org](mailto:dshepp@stmadsophie.org) \*\*\*Please also check my website for additional information regarding curriculum, handouts, schedules, tec. \*\*Show my website and how to access it through the school's website.
- ◉ *You can also leave a voice mail: 425-747-6770 ext. 214*
- ◉ *I am not always able to immediately return e-mails as I am teaching, and many times am unable to get to the computer. \*\*If you have immediate concerns, please call the front office and leave a message., and I will receive it ASAP!*
- ◉ *All teachers can be contacted through their e-mail.*

# *Thank You for Coming!!!!*

- ◉ *Any questions?*
- ◉ *Any Comments?*
- ◉ *Have a great Evening, and thanks again for Attending.*
- ◉ *It is going to be a Wonderful year of learning!!!!*