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“The art of teaching is the art of teaching discovery.” Mark Van Doren

August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Usually people end letters by saying “*Thank You.*” Instead, I’d like to begin by saying “*Thank You*” to you! You have given me the opportunity to teach your child. I’m excited to get to know my new students! I tell my students every year that for the next ten months, we are going to be a second family. In fact, I believe that Peekskill Middle School is our second home. It’s where both students and teachers will learn, laugh, and live together for the next ten months. I, like your child, will probably have a hard time sleeping the night before the first day of school. I’ll struggle to get to sleep because I’m eager to meet my second family for the 2021-2022 school year!

In addition to getting to know my new students, I’d also like you to get to know more about me. I’ve been living in Peekskill for seventeen years. My wife and I have two daughters. My oldest daughter, Daniela, graduated last June from Peekskill High School, and is beginning her freshman year at Westchester Community College. My youngest daughter, Sara, will be starting second grade at Oakside this fall, and is probably tearing up our house as you read this! Outside of school, I’m a member of The Peak Community Church and a board member of The Field Library. In my free time, I enjoy listening to music (Bruce Springsteen!), walking, baking, reading, going to concerts and movies, and visiting Costa Rica, where my wife is from. I’m hoping that as the school year progresses, I can get to know more about you as we come together to meet about your child.

I know that the last couple of years have been challenging for all of us. I believe, though, that we will get through this time, and we will be successful! Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding your child’s progress in ELA. The quickest way to reach me is via the email address above. I believe that if we work together, your child will thrive!

Below is a link to the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade PKMS Summer Reading Project on Google Classroom. This extra credit project is due on Google Classroom on Fri., Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021!

<https://classroom.google.com/c/MzA0NTQxOTY2ODU1/a/MzU2MTIzMzQzMzM2/details>

Once again, I thank you for the honor of allowing me to be your child’s 7<sup>th</sup> grade English teacher! As the quote above says, “The art of teaching is the art of discovery.” I know that I will learn and discover just as much, if not more, from my new students as they will from me.

Sincerely,

*Ben Bloom.*