#### Fall 2017

# The Pragon Times!

## Welcome to Team Dragon!

You are joining a team of teachers who have been working together for the last five years! The Dragon teachers work together to help you move from 7th grade to 8th grade! They WANT you to be successful! But, they cannot do it alone! You need to do your part!

What do YOU need to do?

- 1. Come to class on time and for the FULL session
- 2. Actively participate throughout class
- 3. Complete your assignments to the best of your ability and on time

If you *master these three skills*, you will not only be a GREAT dragon, but a FANTASTIC Student!

**Remember:** Attendance is essential for success. Every thing you need will be covered DURING class! If you do not attend class, you MUST watch the class recording.

#### Team Dragon Teachers

Back Row, left to right: Mrs. Dietrich, Math Mrs. Bauer, English Ms. Aber-Lillion, Science Dr. Barger, Science Front Row, left to right: Miss Keefe, English Miss Sattler, History Mrs. Hamburger, Math





#### **Important Dates:**

09/05 First Day 09/06 Benchmark Opens 09/07 Middle School Parent Meeting 09/13 Half Day Benchmarking/ Half Day Classes 09/20 Half Day Benchmarking/ Half Day Classes 09/21-22 No School 09/29 Half Day; Benchmark Closes 10/27 Half Day 10/30 Asynch Day (check email) 11/07 End of Quarter 1 11/08 Asynch Day (check email) 11/20-22 Parent-Teacher Conferences 11/22 Asynch Half Day (check email) 11/23-27 No School





#### **Class Schedule:**

8:00-8:30 am Homeroom\* 8:30-9:25 am Class\*

9:30-10:25 am Independent PLT

10:30-11:15 am Class\*: PLT

11:20-12:15 Class\*

12:15-12:45 Lunch

12:45-1:40 pm Class\*

1:45-2:40 pm Class\*

- 2:40-4:00 pm Study Hall and/or Office Hours, as needed or assigned
- \* = see Class Connect! There are SIX live sessions each day!





## Welcome 7th Grade Mathematicians!

This year in **Math**, we are going to be working on making our effort count and knowing that mistakes are proof that we are trying. We welcome mistakes in class as we will be working together as a team to put forth excellent effort and correct our mistakes. We will be walking through various Math concepts together as a team. We will go back to the most excellent Math skills that you have been using through the years and add a step or skill to it to help us grow within the area of Math. Together as a team, which includes you, myself and Mrs. Dietrich, we will grow as we adventure through the many avenues of our Math skills this year.

My name is Mrs. Karen Hamburger. I have been teaching at Agora for 9 years. I am super excited to be working with you this year. In addition to myself, you will also be seeing Mrs. Dietrich in the classroom. We have been a Math team for 4 years. We will see you in class!

#### **Ready for an Adventure?**

If you're feeling the call to adventure than **English** class is waiting to take you on one! This year, our readings will take you on a journey to discover cultures from around the world, inventions from the past, ideas for our future and even a few fantastical realms that will excite your imagination. As we read, you'll learn not just how to understand the texts we investigate together, but how to bring you own wonderful thoughts and ideas to them. As a class, we'll share those ideas with each other through our writing, collaboration, and projects designed to help you learn (and also have a little fun in the process.)

I am Miss Keefe, and I will be one of your guides on this adventure. This is my 6th year teaching English for Agora Cyber Charter School. I am so excited to meet you. I know we are going to have an awesome year. Also joining us in the world of English will be Mrs. Bauer. Welcome to the adventure!

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## Welcome Time-Travelers!

This year in **History**, we are going to become expert timetravelers. We will use our history time machine as we travel across the world and go back in time. We will go back to prehistory, and cruise through time all the way to the Middle Ages! I am so excited to share this time traveling adventure with you. Make sure you are ready for some time-traveling and virtual field trips this year!

My name is Miss Sattler and I will be your time-traveling guide. I have been teaching at Agora for 7 years. I am so excited to be your teacher this year!

#### **Dragons are Reptiles!**

Do you know WHY dragons are reptiles? They are ectotherms that have four legs, leathery eggs, scales and lungs.

You will learn this and MORE during Science class this year!

The focus of **Science** this year is the study of Life! We will begin with the Scientific Method and Experimental Design then dive into cells and all things living! You will need to be able to explore the vocabulary of scientists and write your thoughts about what you discover. Coming to class will be the best way to fully investigate the scientific topics we will study.

Your Science expedition team will be led by Dr. Barger and Ms. Aber-Lillion. Dr. Barger is entering her 20th year of middle school science explorations (six years with Agora) and Ms. Aber-Lillion has been with Agora three and a half of her ten and a

> half years teaching. Let the journey begin!



"But it is one thing to read about dragons and another to meet them."

~ Ursula K. Le Guin, A Wizard of Earthsea





## **Other Helpful Hints**

- **Get organized:** Organize all of your materials, books, notebooks, etc.
- **Color code:** Use a color-coding system to organize materials for each subject.
- Use the Planner in the course: to make sure you complete all assignments for all courses.
- Know your best time of day: Choose to study during the time of day or night when you are most alert.
- **Double-check your work:** Make sure to take your time and check your assignments for errors before turning them in to your teacher.
- **Take advantage of resources:** Ask teachers, parents, and tutors for extra help and clarification.

#### **Due Dates**

- Due dates: will be as posted on each assignment (the next day or end of week)
- End dates: ALL end dates will be 2 weeks after the due date
  - After the end date, no assignments will be reopened: the grade EARNED will be a Zero!

# **Retake Policy**

#### Agora School Retake Policy:

- IF you earn less than a 65%, you can request a retake.
- You will need to contact the teacher to find out exactly what you will need to do in order to earn a retake.
- You can only score up to 80% on a retake.
  - If you score above an 80%, the score will be manually adjusted to 80% in the gradebook.
- After the assignment end date, you can no longer work on that assignment.

#### Dragon RETAKE POLICY:

- Request for Retake and Completion of Retake must be completed before the end date (2 weeks after the due date).
- ONLY one retake is allowed per assignment.
- Retakes must be requested by email from the student account
- Students need to complete the teacher's assigned task to earn the retake.
  - For example, you could be asked:
    - to show corrections on problems
    - to fill in blanks on a study guide.

## Extra Credit

- Extra Credit is at the discretion of the subject teacher.
- All assignments must be completed before extra credit is made available.
- Extra Credit cannot exceed 10% of the course grade.

