**Welcome parents and students!**

 Hello and welcome to Kelso C-7 seventh grade! My name is Julie Hahs and I have been a teacher for 16 years in the states of Missouri, Arkansas, and Illinois. I am looking forward to another year here at Kelso C-7. I have loved having the opportunity to provide a more personalized education to my students here at Kelso C-7! I have a Bachelor’s of
Science degree from the University of Missouri – Columbia and a Master’s degree from William Woods University in secondary school administration. I am the 7th grade homeroom teacher as well as the Mathematics and Literature teacher. Kelso C-7 has a reputation of being one of the best schools in our area and I am honored to be a part of such a proud tradition. Thank you for sharing your child with me! It is my hope over the coming months that your child continues to grow to love learning and that I meet each of you as we open those vital lines of communication!

 This is our second year of receiving the benefits of an “Emints Grant.” I have spent one year in Emints training and it is my hope to incorporate even more technology and “Emints” teaching principals into my teaching practices. Your child will be assigned a laptop that they will use throughout the year for many different assignments and projects. For more information about “Emints”, just log on to my website at jhahs.weebly.com. Once again we are very excited to be able to provide this kind of access and learning experience for our students!

Here we go:

1. There are several documents for you to look over and complete. Please return these back to school in the provided envelope by Friday, August 19, 2011. These documents are for my classroom use as well as the office use. It is important that you fill them out as best as you can – especially the emergency information and enrollment forms.
2. I am attaching a post card for you with some telephone numbers and other information that will help you keep in touch with us throughout the year. This communication is very important to me. If at any time you have questions or comments, please let me know. I am a firm believer that the more we communicate the more successful our students are going to be. If I don’t know the answers to your question, I will find someone who does!
3. Weekly folders are sent home with your student’s graded papers. These papers are a good indication of how your student is progressing. Please review the work with your child, sign the folder, and return it to school the following day. It is one of the forms of communication that we can use to make sure our students are doing their best.
4. Assignments are due at 8:00 am the day after they were assigned, unless other instructions are given. If the completed work is not turned in at this time, the assignment will be considered late and a Dog-Ate-It form will be sent home for you to sign so you are aware of the missing assignment. If a child has more than 4 missing assignments a note will be sent home to have a conference.
5. We will be having a “Drop Everything and Read” time during Literature class every Friday. Each student will be expected to read a book of their choice during this time. In my search for the best way to inspire children to love reading, it has become apparent that the single most important thing I can do for my students is to give them time to read. If the book a student is reading is an AR book, then they will be required to take an AR test when they are finished. If the book is not an AR book, then they will be required to type a book report. Students who read 2 books each quarter will earn an A, and 1 book read will earn a B. In order for the book to count, it must be a chapter book and have at least 100 pages. A minimum of 70% will be required on an AR test or book report to count toward their book total each quarter. Each student should establish a nightly reading time at home in order to accomplish the highest grade possible in Literature. To help with this nightly habit, I will ask that each student fill out a reading log every week. They must have a total of 50 minutes of at home reading time each week with a parent signature for a 10 point grade. This only averages to 10 minutes each night! Reading logs will be due the following Monday signed inside of their Friday folders. We are having a reading world series this year and each time a student reads 25% of a book they move one base. When they have completed the book and scored at least a 70% on the AR test that counts as one run. At the end of the year, every student that completes 8 books/runs will be eligible for a reward! So it is very important for everyone to work hard towards this goal! 6th, 7th, and 8th grades are competing so I want my 7th graders to win this challenge! Extra books mean extra runs batted in for our team!
6. Lastly, I would like for you to always know that my door is open if you have any questions, or concerns. I believe the more we keep the lines of communication open, the more your child will succeed this year in school.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Julie Hahs

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