



# Keeping You in the Loop

## For the Parents of Dr. Donahue's Gifted Students

### September 27, 2021

Welcome to new parents and welcome back to those I met last year! I am very thankful for the opportunity to work with your child in person this year! It has been awesome having a consistent schedule. In-person learning makes relationship building so much easier for your child and his/her peers and for your child and me. I know the students are very excited about being at school. They are already thriving! I expect great things from them!

Our major focus this month has been reading/responding to/analyzing more complex literature and writing for a variety of purposes. We have been reading Robert Louis Stevenson's *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Stevenson uses rich vocabulary in his book. SAT and ACT tests are filled with unusual, complex vocabulary words such as the ones he uses, and research indicates that reading books that contain these words is the one of the most effective ways to prepare for these types of high-stake tests.

We are analyzing Stevenson's writing style. Students have just completed their own stories modeled after his style of writing. We will also explore and study his use of imagery and the themes used in this book as well as respond to complex, high-level questions. Students are learning to incorporate historical and sociological events into their analyses of the story.

The students have created magnificent portraits of themselves/their alter egos (real or pretend). Their presentations were quite moving, and well critiqued by their peers. Students from each of my classes were given an opportunity to vote for their favorite portraits. Here are the winners: Eighth Grade Winner: **Stephen Wharton**; Seventh Grade Winner: **Alexa Bieri**; and the Sixth Grade Winner and Students' Choice Winner: **Brinlee Stone**. The artistic/creative talent in this group is amazing!

The first week of October, students will make artistic creations that must be less than 12" x 12". The idea is that powerful things can come in very small packages. The guidelines are posted in Schoology. I will submit all entries to Tamarack to be juried for inclusion in a Youth Art Gallery exhibit. If your child wins, he/she will be responsible for getting his/her piece to Tamarack and picking it up after the exhibit.

I appreciate your attention to returning signed papers. The first of the year is busy with changes to IEPs. Your quick responses make my job much easier! Please contact me at any time with questions/concerns/comments.

*Tammy Donahue, Ed.D.*