



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English

Miss Christine Urio: [christine.urio@wcsdny.org](mailto:christine.urio@wcsdny.org)

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back! I hope that you had an enjoyable and restful summer.

And welcome to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English—I'm so excited to be your teacher this school year! All of the hard work and dedication you have put into your schoolwork throughout the years has helped get you to this point. I am proud to have you in my class and know that you will do well here.

This year promises to be a challenging adventure as you continue to grow and learn as a reader, better express yourself as a writer, and develop communication skills that will help you in future endeavors. Your success in 8<sup>th</sup> grade will depend on your hard work, effort, and dedication. You will be expected to complete homework and class assignments, read a variety of materials, and learn more about the world around you.

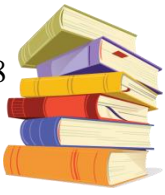
As your teacher, I look towards your future as I help you prepare for high school and beyond. It is my wish that you succeed in this class and are prepared to face the challenges of your academic career; however, it is your commitment to learning that is the most important ingredient to your success.

Now is the time to set goals and to work hard today in order to succeed tomorrow. I look forward to working with each of you throughout the year!

In order to work together to help each of you prepare for success, I would like to make you aware of our coursework and classroom policies, which I have outlined in the syllabus on the following pages, so there are no misunderstandings. Please review the syllabus, and acknowledge your review with the Google Form on Google Classroom.

I must ask for your continued support of your child, and their work at school. We must all work together to support students to ensure their success here at Wappingers Junior High, and the years beyond! If you have any questions, I'm only an email away! I anticipate a wonderful school year and cannot wait to work with all of you!

Warm Regards,  
Christine Urio



## Syllabus

Today matters. It is the first step of your journey toward the future. Outlined below is the criteria for English class. It is essential that you understand what is required of you during our time together.

1. **Expectations:** Everything stems from **respect**, and it is therefore the most prominent element that must be established for a successful classroom environment. This is why we will all speak and act respectfully to each and every individual. Every day, students will be expected to show this respect to the teacher, themselves, and others in the classroom by adhering to the following expectations:
  - Be mindful of your words and how they affect others
  - Do not be rude, hurtful, or belittle anyone's thoughts or opinions
  - Show respect for property (mine and others)
  - Be on time to class
  - Hand in assignments on time
  - Be prepared and have all materials ready for class
  - Take responsibility of yourself and your actions
  - Maintain strong grades and outstanding character
  - Be autonomous—come talk to me if you have any questions or concerns! It is important to foster independence and encourage student ownership
  - **Participate!** You're an important part of this class and I want to hear your voice!
  - Listen to instructions and follow directions as they are given
  - Use time wisely
  - Bring a positive attitude to class!
  
2. **Materials:** Students must come to class **each day** with the following materials. Do NOT come to class unprepared or needing to go to your locker—class begins when the bell rings. I WILL NOT BE SUPPLYING PENS/PENCILS—**YOU** are responsible for bringing these materials to class each and every day because I only have a limited supply of additional materials to share.
  - **YOUR CHROMEBOOK—FULLY CHARGED!!!!!!**
  - Pens (black/blue ink only—no fun colors, please!)/Pencils/Erasers/Highlighter (for annotating and note taking)
  - A planner (to write down assignments/due dates, and stay organized)
  - Book/reading material we are currently studying
  - Independent Reading Book (Can be from home or the library)
  - Cheap headphones/earbuds for iReady **only**
  - \*Optional\* A notebook specifically for English class, not to be shared with any other subject. Spiral or marbled are both fine!
  - \*Optional\* Tissues (to be donated to class)
  - \*Optional\* Package of pencils (to be donated to class)

3. **Procedures:** Routines promote familiarity and stability! Therefore, each day:
- Students will enter the classroom and immediately take their assigned seat
  - Place all of their materials **INSIDE** the desk, and only have out what we are currently working on
  - That means all distractions (devices, headphones, sketchbooks, etc.) are either away in lockers or out of sight—I **DO NOT WANT TO SEE THESE DEVICES IN THE CLASSROOM.**
  - Make sure you go to your locker **BEFORE** class, and keep bathroom trips to a minimum/only if there is an emergency (when you leave the classroom, you miss important instructions!)
  - However, if you do need to leave the classroom, you must sign out on the sign out sheet. Please note, there should **never** be more than **ONE** student out of the room at a time
  - **DO NOT** begin packing up before the bell rings; the bell does not dismiss students—I will.
  - **DO NOT** line up by the door or get out of your seat before the bell rings
4. **Emergency Procedures:** All emergency drills **MUST** be taken seriously. Any type of misbehavior **WILL NOT** be tolerated during these procedures, and will be addressed with a referral. Cooperation and the utmost attention to directions is required during these drills.
- In the event of a Fire Drill, students are to exit the building **QUIETLY**. Once outside, it is the students' responsibility to immediately locate the teacher and rejoin the rest of the class. Students are to line up in a single file line, and it must remain **absolutely silent** for the remainder of the drill: **THERE IS NO TALKING** (laughing, whispering, etc.) **OR FIDGETING WHATSOEVER DURING THIS DRILL AND IT IS TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY.** Whoever cannot follow these directions and behaves inappropriately will be given a referral.
  - In the event of a Lockdown Drill, students are to leave their desks and sit up against the same wall as the door to remain out of sight. It must be **absolutely silent**: **THERE IS NO TALKING** (laughing, whispering, etc.) **OR FIDGETING WHATSOEVER DURING THIS DRILL AND IT IS TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY.** No one opens the door but the teacher and no one is to leave the classroom during this time. Whoever cannot follow these directions and behaves inappropriately will be given a referral.
5. **My Availability:** I am always available to meet with students to discuss assignments or provide extra help! My schedule is below so students can come meet with me during free periods, but they must let me know they are coming beforehand. If we cannot arrange a time to meet during the day, I can stay after school by appointment as long as the student lets me know they are coming.

**Miss Urio: Yellow Team**

Period	Class	Room
Period 1	Prep	---
Period 2	English 8 Honors	134
Period 3	English 8	141
Period 4	Lunch	---
Period 5	English 8	141
Period 6	English 8	141
Period 7	Lunch Duty	Café 1&2
Period 8	English 8	134
Period 9	Team Prep	213

6. **Curriculum:** This year, we will be studying a plethora of subjects, all of which are intertwined and build off of each other, including:

- Short Stories
- Literary Elements (plot, characterization, conflict, point of view, setting, theme, symbolism, flashback, etc.)
- Compare and Contrast
- Narrative Writing (dialogue, figurative language, etc.)
- Poetry (stanzas, rhyme, speaker, meter, etc.)
- Nonfiction (analysis of informational text, cause and effect, compare and contrast, sequencing, author's purpose, etc.)
- Argument (research, MLA, works cited, etc.)
- *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton
- Independent Reading
- iReady
- Critical Thinking Skills (making judgments, analyzing, speculating, expressing opinions, interpreting)
- Writing (essay writing, responding to literature, personal narratives, expository/descriptive, argumentative writing/research)
- Reading Skills and Strategies/Close Reading (predicting, making inferences, drawing conclusions, using context clues, discovering the main idea, making generalizations, making connections, summarizing, paraphrasing, etc.)
- Listening and Speaking
- Grammar, Vocabulary, and Spelling

7. **Grading:** Please note the weight value of assignments as they are assigned. The overall percentage weighting of grades is as follows:

- Essays/Tests.....**40% of grade**
- Google Forms.....**30% of grade**
- Classwork.....**20% of grade**
- Participation.....**10% of grade**

8. **Assignments:** Everything we do in class is important, and therefore nearly everything will receive a grade. There will be plenty of time given in class for assignments to be completed, so it is expected that time is used wisely and assignments are handed in **on the due date**. If you do not finish assignments in the class time given to you, it is **your** responsibility to find time to complete it at home, in study hall, etc. Some assignments in English are assigned over the course of several days due to the length (essays, research paper, etc.). These assignments require the student to do a portion each day, not to save it all until the last minute. **Plan ahead and stay organized!**

- **Missing Assignments:** If you fail to hand in an assignment, you will receive a zero for that grade. Therefore, missing assignments are detrimental to your grade and affect how well you understand the material being covered. However, you have until the end of the quarter to make up missing assignments, although they will be counted as late and receive partial credit.

- **Late Assignments:** Many assignments are reviewed in class once they are due, and if an assignment is handed in late, the answers have already been given. Therefore, if assignments are late, points will be deducted accordingly.
9. **Absence Policy:** You are responsible for making up missed work. That includes: notes, homework assignments, class work, and tests/quizzes. Any previously assigned work is due the day you return to school. Write “ABSENT” on the top of the previously assigned assignment, and the currently assigned assignment, and submit the work to me.

If you are absent 1 day, it is your responsibility to make up the work within 1 day of returning to class. If you are absent 2 days, it is your responsibility to make up the work within 2 days of returning to class, etc. Work not made up in the allotted time will result in point deduction.

Be sure to check our Google Classroom and the calendar on my teacher page because you ALWAYS have access to information and will be held accountable for what is missed.

#### 10. **Technology**

- **Google Classroom:** This will be an **essential** element in this class. All materials and assignments will be posted here. Google Classroom codes are posted on my Teacher Website. PLEASE make sure you are enrolled in YOUR period English class. Many times, assignments and materials will be posted in advance; however, you do not need to start an assignment until we discuss and go over it together in class.
- **Website:** For more information, check out my teacher page on the Wappingers Junior High School website: <https://www.wappingersschools.org/Domain/2590>. To stay privy of what we are doing in class, make sure to look at the calendar tab!
- **Chromebooks:** You have been assigned a Chromebook by the district at the beginning of the year which will be yours until June. It is YOUR responsibility to bring your Chromebook—**fully charged**—with you to class **each day** in order to successfully participate in classroom assignments.

#### 11. **Electronics Policy:**

- **Devices:** There will be **NO** personal electronics allowed in the classroom. This is a building-wide rule which includes, but is not limited to, cell phones, headphones/earbuds, tablets, iPods, etc. This is a **strict, zero tolerance policy**. Students may either leave these devices in their lockers, or keep them turned off and out of view. If I see you using these devices in the classroom, you will be issued a verbal warning, and after that the device will be taken away for the rest of the class period. If this rule is not followed in a respectful manner, the item will be turned into administration where it can be retrieved at the end of the school day. Noncompliance or defiance of this rule will lead to a referral.
- **Chromebooks:** Chromebook usage will be quite prominent in the classroom. It is therefore enforced that these devices be treated as tools, and used strictly to complete assignments. **I will not** tolerate students being on websites that are not in compliance

with the assignment at hand (YouTube, games, etc.). If you are found on a site not pertaining to the assignment, you will be issued a verbal warning, and after that the device will be taken away for the rest of the class period. If this rule is not followed in a respectful manner administration will be notified. Noncompliance or defiance of this rule will lead to a referral.

Thank you for your continued support of your child, and their work at school. It is essential that we all work together to support students to ensure their success! 😊

**After reviewing the syllabus with your guardian, please log on to Google Classroom and complete the short Google Form that is posted, acknowledging that you understand all of the information in this document. Completing this will be an easy 100 for your first homework assignment! 😊**