



8th Grade English

Miss Christine Urio: christine.uriowcsdny.org

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

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

And welcome to 8th 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 8th 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.

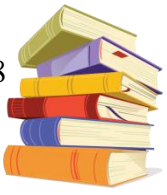
As your teacher, I look towards your future as I help you prepare for high school and beyond. It is my wish that you succeed in this class and are prepared to face the challenges of your academic career; however, it is your commitment to learning that is the most important ingredient to your success.

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 your signature.

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 can't 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
 - 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. **My Availability:** I am always available to meet with students to discuss assignments or provide extra help! I will be available daily for office hours from 1:45-2:25. If students need help with an assignment, are struggling with a concept, or have any questions, they should email me and I will arrange for a Google Meet with them during this time.

3. **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.)
 - Argument (research, MLA, works cited, etc.)
 - Nonfiction (analysis of informational text, cause and effect, compare and contrast, sequencing, author's purpose, 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
4. **Grading:** Please note the weight value of assignments as they are assigned. The overall percentage weighting of grades is as follows:
- Writing/Tests/Projects = **50% of grade**
 - Class work/Homework/Quizzes = **40% of grade**
 - Classroom Participation = **10% of grade**
5. **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 (ex. essay, 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.
6. **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.

7. **Technology**

- **Google Classroom:** This will be an essential element in this class. All materials and many assignments will be posted here. At this point you should already be logged into Google Classroom, but if you are not, you can check my Teacher Website, or email me and I will give you the code for your class period.
- **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 and when assignments are due, make sure to look at the calendar and assignments tabs!

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! 😊