



## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English Language Arts (ELA) Period 2

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Dear Students, and Parents and/or 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.

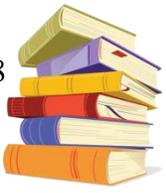
As your teacher, I look towards your future as I help you prepare for high school and beyond. It is my wish that you succeed in this class and are prepared to face the challenges of your academic career; however, it is your commitment to learning that is the most important ingredient to your success.

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 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 are 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 only have a limited supply of additional materials to share.
  - A notebook specifically for English class, not to be shared with any other subject. Spiral or marble are both fine!
  - A folder specifically for English class, not to be shared with any other subject
  - **Black/blue** ink pens (no fun colors, please!)
  - Pencils
  - Erasers
  - A 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\* Tissues (to be donated to class)
  - \*Optional\* Package of Pencils (to be donated to class)

**MATERIALS WILL BE CHECKED IN CLASS ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 FOR A  
HOMEWORK GRADE!**

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 (phone, 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: “If you want to leave-y, you must be in a seat-y!”
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 on Wednesdays/by appointment as long as the student lets me know they are coming.

## Miss Urio: Yellow Team—Quarters 1 &amp; 2

Period	Class	Room
Period 1	Prep	--
Period 2	English 8	134
Period 3	Team Prep	--
Period 4	English 8(Cosme)	134
Period 5	English 8	141
Period 6 (Odd)	Lunch Duty	Café 3
Period 7 (Odd)	Lunch	--
Period 6 (Even)	Lunch	--
Period 7 (Even)	Basic Help SH	103A
Period 8	English 8 Honors	134
Period 9	English 8 (Moen)	134

## Miss Urio: Yellow Team—Quarters 3 &amp; 4

Period	Class	Room
Period 1	Prep	--
Period 2	English 8	134
Period 3	Team Prep	--
Period 4	English 8 (Cosme)	134
Period 5	English 8	141
Period 6	Lunch Duty	Café 3
Period 7	Lunch	--
Period 8	English 8 Honors	134
Period 9	English 8 (Moen)	134

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.)
- 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

7. **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**

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 (ex. research paper). 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.

When you are absent, you **MUST** check the absent folder for missed handouts. Also, be sure to check our Google Classroom and the calendar on my teacher page so you **ALWAYS** have access to information because you are accountable for what is missed.

10. **Technology**

- **Google Classroom:** This will be an essential element in this class. All materials and many assignments will be posted here. We will log onto our Classroom as a class when we first use the Chromebooks, but here is your Google Classroom Code in case you need it: **wt9hfn**
- **Chromebooks:** You will be assigned a Chromebook number which will be your Chromebook in our classroom throughout the entire year. It is **YOUR** responsibility to make sure you are using the Chromebook that was assigned to you because this is how we will keep track of any damage that is done to the devices. If someone else is using your device during the class period, and there is damage done to it or it is lost, **you** will still be held accountable because it is signed out in your name.
- **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!

11. **Electronics Policy:**

- **Devices:** There will be **NO** personal electronics allowed in the classroom. This 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! 😊

Please rip off the last page (keep the syllabus in a safe place to refer to throughout the year!), sign the Syllabus Acknowledgement Slip and the Cell Phone and Electronics Contract on the following page, and return that page to me by **Monday, September 9, 2018** to receive a 100 on your first homework assignment!

Please remove this page from the rest of the syllabus (keep that in a safe place to refer to throughout the year!), sign both the Syllabus Acknowledgement Slip and the Cell Phone and Electronics Contract below, and return this page to me by **Monday, September 9, 2018** to receive a 100 on your first homework assignment!

## Miss Urio ELA 8 Syllabus Acknowledgement Slip

**I understand the criteria for English 8 as outlined in the syllabus and I agree to abide by the information provided.**

**Student Signature (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian email/contact information:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Does student have access to a computer outside of school?** Google Classroom is an integral part of our class, and knowing the availability that students have to a computer outside of school will help me to determine how to best assign classwork!

Yes

No

## Miss Urio ELA 8 Cell Phone and Electronics Contract

Please take the time to have a discussion with your child about the Electronics Policy set forth in the syllabus, as this policy is important and necessary for a safe classroom environment. The reasoning for this is that classroom time should be focused on learning, not texting or social media. Of course, if there is an emergency, students may come speak to me about keeping their device out during class. I appreciate all of your support with regard to this classroom management direction.

**I understand the criteria of the Electronics Policy as outlined in the syllabus, and agree to abide by the information provided. I understand that phones will not be tolerated in class and that I will adhere to using the Chromebooks for strictly academic purposes.**

**Student Signature (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Signature (Print):** \_\_\_\_\_