**7th Grade English AIS
Miss Christine Urio:** **christine.urio@wcsdny.org**

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome back and welcome to 7th Grade English AIS! I hope you had an enjoyable, restful summer and are as excited as I am about our class time together this school year!

All 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 7th 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 work hard today to succeed for 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 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 stop 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. **Course Description**: This program has been designed to help you achieve greater success in English. This class provides you with an additional opportunity to work on applied skills and strategies that will strengthen your critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. As a new junior high student, you may have difficulty becoming accustomed to the pace of the core English class and higher-level thinking that is required. This class will address the skills and concepts learned in the core English class, but not necessarily at the same time or in the same order. The AIS setting allows for concepts and skills to be taught in a variety of ways with more flexibility, one-on-one assistance, and collaboration with peers from all four 7th grade teams. With the help of the AIS class, I promise you will feel more comfortable and confident in your core classes.
2. **Independent Reading:** In your English class you will ALWAYS be reading an independent reading book of your choice. This book should be carried with you from class to class each day. Yes, that means you should have it in this class too! You will be spending a minimum of 50 minutes a week reading this book IN your English class and a minimum of 40 minutes a week reading OUTSIDE of class. I will give you many opportunities to complete those 40 minutes of independent reading in this class each week!
3. **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!
1. **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.

**Required:**

* **YOUR CHROMEBOOK—FULLY CHARGED!!!!!!!**
* A notebook specifically for English class, not to be shared with any other subject
* Pencils, erasers, and pens (black/blue ink only)
* Independent Reading Book (Can be from home or the library)
* Cheap headphones/earbuds for iReady **only**

 **Recommended:**

* A planner (to write down assignments/due dates, and stay organized)
* Tissues (to be donated to class)
* Package of pencils (to be donated to class)
1. **Assessments, Grading and Homework**: You will be evaluated on a variety of levels, both formal and informal. Students will be assessed on specified requirements, quality and presentation of each classroom task that is assigned. Generally, you will not receive homework from AIS other than to read each night. However, if classwork is not completed within the expected time frame due to unproductive behavior, the classwork will then become homework.
2. **General Procedures**: Routines promote familiarity and stability! Therefore, each day:
* Students will enter the classroom and immediately take their assigned seat
* Place all materials *inside* the desk, and only have out what we are currently studying. 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!)
* 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
1. **Daily Procedures**: This is how each class period will begin:
* Get your notebook
* Every day when you enter the room a Do Now will be posted on the board.
* You are expected to enter the room, sit down, and complete the Do Now in your notebook
* You will sit quietly and silently read your Independent Reading book for 10 minutes until further instructions are given
1. **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.
	1. 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.
	2. In the event of a Lockdown Drill, students are to leave their desks and stand 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.
2. **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.

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1. **Absence Policy**: You are responsible for making up missed work. 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.

1. **Technology**
	1. **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.
	2. **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!
	3. **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.
2. **Electronics Policy**:
	1. **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.
	2. **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.

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