

Parents/Guardians:

AUGUST IN REVIEW

I wanted to take a moment to reach out about our progress in the first month of school and review a few class policies and procedures. I have enjoyed getting to know your students and am looking forward to seeing them continue to grow as writers and readers over the semester.

Please review this letter and the policies within, and sign and return the following page, indicating your receipt of this information.



SPRING BOARD

If you had a chance to visit at Open House, you learned about the county's newest resource for English/Language Arts, Spring Board. Spring Board is an interactive resource for students grades 6-12 in Cobb County in their English/Language Arts classes. Each student receives a textbook that they can write and take notes in at the beginning of the semester. Due to the cost of these texts (\$80), we are storing them in our classroom for students to use. When students are in class, they are working primarily from these texts, reading AND writing in them. Every effort will be made to complete as much work in class as possible, therefore, homework will mainly be large projects, unfinished essay writing, or any make-up work students have.

RESTROOM POLICY / PASSES OUT OF CLASS

As echoed by WHS administration, students should make every effort to be in class ON TIME and for the entirety of the period. Due to excessive passes out of class, I will be implementing a new policy for restroom use and/or passes out of class. Starting from 08/25/2017, students will be granted 7 passes to use at their discretion for the remainder of the semester. Administration is aware of and approves of this policy. Additionally, NO PASSES will be written during the first 15 minutes or last 15 minutes of class, known by WHS administration as DEAD TIME. Students should make every effort to use the restroom, drink water, and/or get snacks during their breaks.

CLASS BLOG

Parents should visit the class blog, accessible via the Faculty/Staff page at Wheeler High, for information on what we are completing as a class. I make every effort to update the page daily. Students may also use the blog to catch up on work they have missed.

FILM STUDY

Per our class syllabus, film study will be used as an educational part of our class. All parents who signed the syllabus, indicated that they approve of their student watching G, PG, or PG13 films and/or film clips that correlate to the material of the course. The following Georgia Standards for Excellence support the use of film in the classroom:

ELAGSE9-10RI7 Analyze various accounts of a subject told in different mediums (e.g., a person's life story in print and multimedia), determining which details are emphasized in each account.

ELAGSE9-10SL2 Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively, orally) evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source.

ELAGSE9-10SL5 Make strategic use of digital media (e.g., textual, graphical, audio, visual, and interactive elements) in presentations to enhance understanding of findings, reasoning, and evidence and to add interest.

Film provides students an opportunity to access the themes and ideas of the course in a new media, accessing audio/visual learning skills and helping students to practice synthesizing material. Films used in this course are discussed and planned for in collaboration with the 10th Grade English-Language Arts team, and other classes are engaging in similar or exact studies. If you do not wish for your child to participate in film studies, I will happily provide an alternative assignment.

Please indicate your wishes on the form attached.

CELLPHONE USE IN CLASS

The use of cellphones during class has been an issue in the first four weeks. The course policy on cellphone use is as follows:

- Students should remove their ear buds and put away their cellphones when they enter the classroom
- Students should not be using their phones during instructional time or when the instructor is giving instruction or teaching
- Students should not be using face time or taking calls while in class

Please speak to your students about responsible cellphone use while in class. If a student is asked to put his/her cellphone away and fails to comply or argues with the instructor, this will be written up as insubordination.

SUPPLIES

The following items are a few things your students consistently request from me. If you would like to contribute to our class supplies, feel free to pick up these items and bring them by the school. We are grateful for all you do as parents:

- Kleenex
- Germ-X / Hand Sanitizer
- Lysol / Clorox Wipes
- Pencils
- Pens
- Markers / Colored Pencils
- Magazines for Independent Reading

PLEASE CUT THIS PORTION OUT AND RETURN WITH A SIGNATURE BY TOMORROW!

I understand that for the remainder of the semester, my student will be provided with 7 passes for restroom and/or other “errands” out of class.

I permit my student to engage in film study with G, PG, and PG-13 films that are related to the course and include an accompanying assignment related to the Georgia Standards of Excellence.

CHECK ONLY IF YOU DO NOT PERMIT YOUR STUDENT TO ENGAGE IN FILM STUDY AND WOULD LIKE THEM TO RECEIVE AN ALTERNATE ASSIGNMENT.

I understand that if my student is using his/her cellphone at an inappropriate time during class and does not put the cellphone away when asked, he/she is subject to a discipline referral for insubordination.

PARENT SIGNATURE HERE _____