

# Welcome!

## Welcome to 8th Grade English!

### Class Materials

Students must bring the following materials to class each day:

- Agenda book (provided by school)
- Pens & Pencils
- Highlighters
- Post-it notes
- 2 two-pocket folders
- Loose-leaf binder and paper (for use in English only).  
Divide the binder into the following 4 sections:
  - Section 1: Word of the Day
  - Section 2: Classwork
  - Section 3: Grammar
  - Section 4: Writing
- One box of tissues with your name on it (at the beginning of the year only)

Thank you!



### Dear Parents/Guardians & Students,

This contract outlines the class policy and rules for English 8. Please read the contract together

I am looking forward to a wonderfully productive school year!

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Fischer*

### What to Expect this Year in Mastery English

The goal of the Mastery ELA8 course is to continue the exploration of the language arts by providing varied speaking, listening, reading, and writing experiences with differentiated standards: reading for literature, reading for information, writing, speaking and listening, and language. Students are encouraged to develop higher-level thinking skills through analysis and synthesis of their writing, and to participate in class daily. Being active participants within the classroom better prepares students for the high school program by developing strong study and organizational skills.

### Classroom Rules and Procedures

#### Punctuality & Seating

Arrive to class on time, take your assigned seat, and check the board for the *Do Now* and the homework. Please ask permission before getting up from your seat.

#### Leaving the Classroom

Try your best to remain inside of the classroom for the entire period. Please limit requests to leave the classroom (bathroom, locker, etc.) to emergencies and observe the "ten-minute-rule" - no leaving for the first or last ten minutes of class!

#### Respectful Communication

In order to create a pleasant atmosphere, we must be respectful of one another. Talk is limited to one person at a time. When you wish to speak, please raise your hand, and always interact with others in a respectful manner in which you would expect them to interact with you.

## Contacting Mrs. Fischer

### e-board/Weebly

Important information can be found on my Weebly. There is link on my district e-board that will connect you to my Weebly page, or you can visit directly at [jessicafischer.weebly.com](http://jessicafischer.weebly.com)

### Extra Help

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings from 7:15-7:45 am.  
\*When possible, please let me know in advance if you plan on meeting for extra help.

### Contact

I look forward to working collaboratively toward a successful school year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have at any time. You can reach me by calling the main office at 631.592.3400 or via email at [jfischer@hhh.k12.ny.us](mailto:jfischer@hhh.k12.ny.us)

### Please Note

According to the HHH ELA department policy, it is suggested that students have the opportunity to work independently on a written assignment or to read independently for one class period each week. During time teachers may conference with students to discuss their writing or reading progress.

### Absences

According to district policy, students are responsible for making up any test, quiz, homework, or class assignments missed due to absence. Made-up assignments must be submitted within two days of returning to school. Students who miss class due to lessons are responsible for making up any missed work.

### Looking Ahead

Students who maintain an 85% grade point average for the first three quarters of 8th grade English will be recommended for Honors English in 9th grade.

## Meaningful Communication

To ensure a productive classroom atmosphere, we must focus our time together on academics. Socialize during lunch/free time – socializing during class time is distracting to you and others.

## Honesty and Behavior

Do your own work for this course. Copying material from another student or the Internet is not allowed. All members of the class will treat each other with civility and respect at all times. Inappropriate behavior interrupts classroom learning time and will not be tolerated.

## West Hollow Middle School Grading Policy

### Summative Assessments: 40%

Any major assignment that demonstrates student understanding or analysis and synthesis of a unit's objective. (Full-length essays, end of unit writing, end of unit exam, quarterly project, etc.)

### Formative Assessments: 55%

Evaluates student knowledge of a concept taught or discussed within a larger unit. Formative assessments consist of the following:

**Classwork/Homework 15%**

**Quizzes/tests 25%**

**Essays/Formal Writing 15%**

### Cumulative Exam: 5%

There will be a common core based assessment given each quarter that covers all standards/skills taught up to the current marking period. This assessment will be administered in class during the seventh week of the marking period (unless otherwise noted).

### Lateness Policy

All homework is to be submitted the day it is due. Students may turn in homework one day late for half credit. No work will be accepted if it is more than one day late. No parent notes will be accepted. Special considerations may be made for students with extended absences because of sickness (coupled with a doctor's note) or family tragedy.

Students will be penalized 5 points per day for any Summative Assessment that is submitted late. No Summative Assessments will be accepted more than four days late.

Quiz, test, and/or in-class writing assignment make-ups must be scheduled and completed during extra help hours.

### Extra Credit

In the effort to limit grade inflation and legitimize student academic performance, no teacher can offer students extra credit. The work assigned each quarter must be the evaluative tools that assess student learning and function as the appropriate measures to decide if the student is recommended for Honors placement.