

*Eighth Grade English*  
*Ms. Hattoy*  
*hattoyb@northstonington.k12.ct.us*  
*(860) 535 – 0377 ext. 103*

***I. Course Overview:***

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum is designed to cover the five core strands of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). These five strands are Reading for Literature, Reading for Information, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language. Throughout the course of the year, students will be analyzing elements of literature, various writing styles, author's purpose, and the importance of word choice in the context of novels, short stories, drama, poetry, articles, and short essays. Students will also study vocabulary and review elements of grammar.

Writing assignments in Grade 8 vary among analytical, expository, argumentative, narrative, and creative writing. Through these modes of writing, students will be expected to communicate with a clear audience or purpose in mind. Students will be required to assume critical stances on a wide range of topics and argue those stances using relevant and meaningful evidence. They will need to generate claims and construct essays with topic and concluding sentences, appropriate transitions, and effective introductions and conclusions. Students will be required to complete a research project, which includes a written paper and oral presentation.

***II. Overall Course Objectives (from curriculum):***

- Evaluating/ contrasting themes and main ideas
- Analyzing how a text makes distinctions between individuals, ideas, and events
- Analyzing the structure of a text and how the structure contributes to the overall meaning
- Analyzing how particular words and phrases impact a text
- Determining the creditability of a speaker's argument, evaluating the soundness of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence provided
- Writing arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence
- Engaging effectively in a range of collaborate discussions/ inquiry
- Presenting claims, findings, and ideas in a coherent manner using appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation
- Communicating ideas in an effective way with a targeted audience

### ***III. Materials:***

- Pens/ Pencils
- 1 subject **college rule** notebook (100 pages - 9" x 11")
- Folder specifically for English class

### ***IV. Class/ Behavior Expectations:***

- You are expected to have an open mind and be respectful toward teachers and peers.
- Bullying, as defined in the student handbook, will not be tolerated in any form and will immediately be brought to the attention of the administration.
- You are expected to come to every class on time, prepared, and ready to actively participate in all class activities, discussions, and group work. Class participation and collaboration will be assessed according to Common Core Standard SL.8.1, which states that students are able to engage effectively in a range of discussions.
- You are expected to use all classroom technology in a responsible manner.

### ***V. Academic Expectations: Literacy, Communication, Collaboration, Analysis***

***Social/ Civic Expectations:*** Demonstrate Respect, Demonstrate Honesty, Demonstrate Responsibility, and Demonstrate Safety

### ***VI. Absences:***

If you are absent, it is **necessary** that you take responsibility to see me about any missing assignments or work the following day. If you are anticipating being absent for an extended amount of time due to specific circumstances, please notify me in person or through email so we can set up the proper accommodations for the situation.

## VII. Grading Policy

Grading is based on a points system. The total point value for each quarter will range throughout the year and each assignment also ranges in value based on depth and practice.

- **Extra Credit/ Revisions** – In this class, extra credit will not be given. However, you will often have the opportunity to revise or makeup assignments by submitting an Action Plan for Success (APS) Form. You may fill out an APS form if you receive a grade lower than an A. When you revise or makeup an assignment, I will not average grades; if you put the effort into improving your work, you deserve the opportunity to earn full credit. **Revisions will not be accepted without an APS Form.** This action plan encourages you to reflect on the mistakes you made on the assignment and identify what will help you improve the grade.
- **Revision Deadlines**- After an assignment has been turned back, you will have one full week to fill out the APS Form and have it signed by a parent/ guardian. (Action plans will only be accepted for work that has been turned in on time.) When this form is completed, you need to meet with me to review the plan. After that step takes place, I can provide you with any support you may need to be successful. After the meeting, I will provide you with a revision due date.
- **Notebook Checks:** You will be encouraged to keep your notebook in the classroom. Each quarter, I will do random notebook checks to ensure that all students are keeping up with the work. You will not have the opportunity to make up this grade.
- **Missed Work:** Recognizing that each student may have an “off day” that does not reflect his or her overall effort or abilities, all students will earn a 40% instead of a 0% on up to two missed homework or classwork assignments for each quarter. Though this may seem like a trivial difference, the 0% could negatively impact the quarter, whereas, the 40% gives the student a better chance to recover from his/her mistake
- **Late Work:** 20% will be deducted for any late work.

**VIII. Academic Integrity Statement – as stated in handbook:**

The faculty and administration of Wheeler Middle/High School demand high standards of academic performance and academic honesty. Anything less would jeopardize quality education and allow our students to deny themselves needed skills and knowledge. For this reason students who cheat on their assigned work, reports, research papers, quizzes, tests or examination risk prompt and punitive action by both their teacher and the school. Examples of violations may include, but are not limited to:

- Giving or receiving aid on tests and graded assignments
- Unauthorized talking during tests
- Copying regular homework/exercises
- Unapproved discussion of examinations/assignments contents
- Cheating on peer reviews of student work
- Misuse of technology

Documentation of all sources is important to avoid plagiarism, which is the stealing of another's ideas, words, writing, or academic work, and implying that it is original. Both quoting and paraphrasing information from an outside source, including any technology without crediting that source is a form of plagiarism. Students who are found cheating or plagiarizing will be subject to the following guidelines:

First offense:

- Academic penalty up to and including zero.
- Parent contacted.
- Administration notified (by teachers completing a discipline form).

Subsequent offenses:

- Academic penalty up to and including zero.
- Parent contacted.
- Disciplinary action by administration which may include office detention or suspension.

**IX. Extra Help:**

If you are struggling at any point or have any questions about the material we are learning, please do not hesitate to ask for extra help! You can schedule an appointment to meet with me before or after school.

***Signing up for Remind – Text and/or Email Notifications***

Whenever I assign homework or would like to remind students of upcoming events or projects, I use Remind, which is an application that allows students and/or parents to receive text or email notifications from teachers. If you are interested in signing up for my Remind account, please send me an email at [Hattoyb@northstonington.k12.ct.us](mailto:Hattoyb@northstonington.k12.ct.us), and I would be happy to give you the information you need to sign up for my account.

**Please complete the information on this page and return to Ms. Hattoy on Friday, August 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**Student Section:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the course expectation sheet and understand what is expected of me this year.

Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Section:**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, have read the class expectation sheet and understand all classroom policies.

Parent/ Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Questions:

Please feel free to contact me at any time. I look forward to working with you and your child, and I encourage you to keep in touch with me if you have any questions or concerns during the school year.

Sincerely,

Ms. Brittney Hattoy

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Action Plan for Success (APS) Form**

Remember, this action plan must be signed by parent or guardian and stapled to your revised copy.

**Assignment you want to revise:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Explain why you think you did poorly on this assignment** (Example: not enough evidence to support claim, did not write in complete sentences, incorrect information...etc)

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**Action Plan Steps:**

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Parent/ Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Revision Deadline: \_\_\_\_\_