

**\*Hard copy should be kept in binder\***

**Challenger Middle School**  
**Eighth GRADE ENGLISH 2018-19**

**Contact Information:**

*with Mr. Wolf*  
Room: 920  
Phone: 858-755-1558  
Email: [mwolf@sandiego.edu](mailto:mwolf@sandiego.edu)  
Class Website: [mattewolf.weebly.com](http://mattewolf.weebly.com)

Prep Period: Period 1

Dear students, parents, and guardians:

Welcome to eighth grade English! This year will stretch your mind and will challenge you to become an improved reader and writer. The following information will familiarize you with the requirements and expectations of our English class this year.

- 1) ***The Beginning of Every Class:*** Walk in, sit down and be prepared to work. Write down the agenda and homework on your daily agenda, get out any due homework, and begin independent reading. You will be considered **tardy** if you are not in your seat and reading when the bell rings.
- 2) ***Classroom Expectations:***
  - Be courteous and attentive.
  - Be prepared to do your best.
  - Be positive.
  - Be prepared for class.
- 3) **Items not tolerated in class:**
  - Electronic devices such as I-Pods, games, etc. are not tolerated on campus; cell phones are to be kept out of sight at all times with ringer off. **Failure to do so will result in the item being taking away.** The only time you may have your cell phone out is when instructed by Mr. Wolf. Cell phones being used for class purposes must be on your desk.
  - Food/drinks (except water) are not allowed in class.
- 4) **Mr. Wolf's Cell Phone/Electronics Policy: "If I see it I will take it."**

**Phones/electronic devices must be off and zipped in your backpacks BEFORE you enter the classroom. This also includes removing earbuds. Earbuds should also be in your backpack before entering the classroom.**

- Phones/ devices may be used within the four walls of the classroom ONLY for academic purposes.
  - No video games
  - No social media
  - No cameras
  - No surfing the web
  - No listening to music
  - Phones DO NOT go with you to the restroom
  - No texting
  - No calls
  - No checking notifications
  - No watching videos
  - No other uses not listed under #2
- Academic purposes are limited to:
  - ★ Researching on the web for class assignments given by the teacher
  - ★ Using educational apps or curriculum links for class assignments as instructed and approved by the teacher.
  - ★ Playing Kahoot or Quizlet Live with the class.

Consequences (**THERE WILL BE NO WARNINGS**)

- Your phone will be taken and held onto by Mr. Wolf until the END OF THE CLASS DAY.
- **You will lose phone privileges for THE REST OF THE MONTH for all purposes including academic. (Phone will be checked in with Mr. Wolf at the beginning and ending of each period.)**

\*\*Please see the Student Planner for more extensive information on Challenger expectations, policies, support, and activities \*\*

- 5) ***Consequences for behavior issues:*** 1<sup>st</sup>: Warning. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Detention & home contact  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Referral (Note: electronic device confiscation receives no warning)

- 6) **Classroom Materials:** The following materials are suggested for class: highlighter, pencils, pens, college-ruled notebook paper, and student agenda.
- 7) **Core Pieces of Literature:** The following is a list of readings we may explore this year: *Animal Farm* by George Orwell / *The Giver* by Lois Lowry / *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck / *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. In addition to these pieces, students will be reading short stories, poems, myths, and other informational texts that represent various genres and time periods.
- 8) **Outside Reading (SSR):** Students will also be assigned SSR (silent sustained reading). SSR will take place both in/out of the classroom. Please begin selecting your first book in the next couple of days. Books may be of any genre. Books must be at least 150 pages long. Books should be at grade level or above. Books should be new to the reader. **Finally, books may not have a connected movie/TV show (no exceptions)**. Students will be assigned to read 10 pages per night (70 pages per week). When students have finished their novel by their due date, they will complete an information sheet asking them to discuss what they read and their opinion on the reading. The independent reading sheet will be completed in class or at home. On the day a student's book is due, he/she needs to have a new one to register to avoid losing points. Students will be awarded 2 pts per day of in class independent reading. Students will automatically receive the 2 pts if they are on task reading and have their registered book with them. Points will be deducted for off-task behavior and being unprepared (no registered book). Students will receive detention if they forget reading materials after 2 reminders. Students must read from a book (no reading from cell phones, tablets, Kindle, etc). Make sure before selecting one of these books you've checked the reading level (usually printed on the back) or verified it's not a movie.
- 9) **Writing:** We will be exploring several writing genres throughout the year. These may include: *Essays-Persuasive/Argumentative, Narrative, and Informational*. Writing will be evaluated through process writing, timed writes, and formal essays.
- 10) **Projects:** Students will complete a number of projects this year. These will either be in groups or individually.
- 11) **Socratic Seminars:** Students will also participate in guided and graded discussions about literature and non-fiction reading.
- 12) **Proper Heading:** In the upper right corner you must put your first and last name and class period. The assignment title must be centered on the top line of the paper.

### Late Work:

- 13) **Late Work:** All assignments should be turned in on time or it is considered late. Late work will be graded but will receive a 10% grade deduction per day it is late. **All assignments are posted on the class website.**
- 14) **Homework:** Any portion of an in-class assignments **NOT** completed in class is considered homework. Homework will be assigned occasionally to increase student proficiency and success.

### Absences:

- 15) **Absence Policy:**
1. On the day you return, turn in assignments that were due during your absence.
  2. The night before you return, check my website for the agenda/hw and get started on what you missed: [www.mattdwolf.weebly.com](http://www.mattdwolf.weebly.com). If you do not have internet access at home, Challenger has Chromebooks for checkout. Handouts, assignments, or notes given during your absence are available on the website. You may also see if any test, quizzes,

If you are absent from class, it is **your responsibility** to check the class website for what you missed. Unexcused absences affect citizenship and also often impact academic grades. In the event of an excused absence, the student is responsible to obtain and complete any missing assignments in a timely manner.

### Grades:

- 16) **Grades:** **To succeed in my class, complete ALL assignments and study for tests.** I will NOT assign extra-credit at the end of the grading period to boost your grade. **Keep all returned work. Grades will not be rounded.**

100-90%=A

89-80%=B

79-70%=C

69-60%=D

Below 60%=F

17) **Academic Honesty/Plagiarism:** Copying or “borrowing” someone else’s writing. This is a serious offense and will not be tolerated. Suspected cases of plagiarism will be investigated, and no credit will be given for the assignment, citizenship grade will be lowered, parent and counselor will be contacted. See CMS [Academic Honesty Policy](#)

18) **Questions or Concerns:** It is very important that students understand the meaning behind every assignment. If students or parents have questions about assignments, I am always available for clarification. Email is the best way to contact me; I will try to respond to emails within 48 hours. Please be patient as I may need to gather information before returning messages, or may have previously scheduled meetings that prevent me from responding the same day. I will always be prepared to help you during a prescheduled appointment. I am available by appointment for parent conferences before school and during my prep. Students may see me during lunch or after school for any academic help. I am here to help you succeed!

# Students are responsible for taking this home and returning it to Mr. Wolf by 8/31/2018

*To Parent/Guardian: Please sign & return to indicate you have read, understand, and agree to the course guidelines/procedures/policies*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
email address (main method of contact)

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
phone/contact number (for emergencies)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*To Student: Please sign & return to indicate you have read, understand, and agree to the course guidelines/procedures/policies*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Class Period

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date