

## ***Grade 8 English***

Way Point Academy (2008–09)

Mrs. Trisha L. Ohlendorf (Room 7)

Phone: (231) 777-4WPA x107; E-mail: [tohlendorf@4waypoint.com](mailto:tohlendorf@4waypoint.com)

Available 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., or by appointment

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### ***Welcome, students!***

Welcome to the 2007-08 school year, and what promises to be a brand new chapter in the history of Way Point Academy! My name is Mrs. Ohlendorf, and I have the privilege of being your eighth grade English teacher. This year, our class theme is **The Best is Yet to Come**. Because we want to have a wonderful and peaceful journey together, let's discuss exactly what I expect from you:

- ✳ Always treat your classmates and teacher with respect.
- ✳ Model behavior that contributes to a safe, successful learning community for all.
- ✳ Attend class every day, and arrive on time.
- ✳ Be committed to studying and completing your homework when assigned.
- ✳ View reading and writing as absolutely critical skills for future success.
- ✳ Be ready to work hard without complaint.

Additionally, it is important to know the things I will do for you during this school year:

- ✳ I will always value and treat you with respect.
- ✳ I will maintain a learning environment that will support your success.
- ✳ I will protect you from physical and emotional harm.
- ✳ I will hold the highest standards for you and myself educationally.
- ✳ I will fairly and consistently enforce our established standards for behavior.
- ✳ I will maintain a fair system to ensure that your grades reflect your achievement.
- ✳ I will return graded papers in a timely manner.

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### ***Class Objective:***

The purpose of this class is to aid you in becoming an improved reader, writer, and thinker. Additionally, you will be immersed in activities to promote career readiness.\*

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\*The curriculum of this class has been adapted from the standards of the Michigan Curriculum Framework. These standards describe what students should know and be able to do by the time they graduate, as mandated by the federal *No Child Left Behind* Act of 2001. Parents are encouraged to access the Michigan Curriculum Framework to monitor their child's developmental growth.

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### **Required Materials:**

Way Point school planner  
#2 pencil or pen (*no neon gel pens, please*)  
Class binder  
Class text (will vary depending on the current unit): I will provide these.

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### **Expected Student Learner Outcomes:**

1. **The learner will improve writing and will produce a variety of work:**
    - You will know and implement all steps of the writing process.
    - You will recognize and incorporate the “6 + 1 Traits of Writing.”
    - You will create a variety of effective writing assignments for various purposes.
  2. **The learner will read text of multiple genre for varying purposes:**
    - You will identify plot elements and connect personal knowledge to text.
    - You will read informational text to extract meaning and recognize common structures.
    - You will read a variety of poetry and will distinguish different poetic devices.
  3. **The learner will be aware of different strategies to improve comprehension:**
    - You will monitor your comprehension and recognize confusion.
    - You will understand and be able to implement multiple comprehension strategies.
    - You will identify most appropriate comprehension strategy to employ for the occasion.
  4. **The learner will improve grammar and basic mechanics:**
    - You will understand the rules of grammar and improve usage.
    - You will recognize basic parts of speech through sentence diagraming.
    - You will learn to self- and peer edit to eliminate grammatical errors and improve content.
  5. **The learner will critically listen and respond to oral presentations:**
    - You will speak confidently, recognizing and using appropriate levels of discourse.
    - You will create hypotheses based on topic and will develop relevant questions.
    - You will compare and contrast language used in multiple communication contexts.
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### **Classroom Rules and Consequences:**

1. **Be in seat on time and prepared.**

*Consequences:*

  - *If not in seat when bell rings, will get “Unexcused Tardy”. Two unexcused tardies will result in a lunch detention.*

- *If not prepared for class, must fill out a “Pink Slip”. Continually coming to class unprepared will result in a parent teacher conference where together we can determine why you are coming to class unprepared.*

**2. Clean up after self.**

*Consequences:*

- *Will not be allowed to leave class until materials have been put away properly.*
- *Repeated messes will prohibit further use of class materials.*

**3. Participate positively in all class activities.**

*Consequences:*

- *Interruptions or put-downs will result in a verbal warning, then detention or ISS.*
- *Repeated negative participation will result in a trip to the office.*

**4. Put forth 100% effort on all class work.**

*Consequences:*

- *Messy or hastily completed work will result in a deduction, and must be redone.*
- *If score of 69% or less is received on any class assignment, may be asked to redo.*

**5. Respect classmates and their property.**

*Consequence:*

- *Intentional property damage, theft, unwanted physical contact, or bullying will result in ISS.*
- *If behavior continues, will receive a call home and must report to office.*

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**Way Point Grading Scale:**

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|----------|----|------------|----|
| • 93-100 | A  | • 78-79    | C+ |
| • 90-92  | A- | • 73-77    | C  |
| • 88-89  | B+ | • 70-72    | C- |
| • 83-87  | B  | • Below 70 | N  |
| • 80-82  | B- |            |    |

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**Grading Categories:**

*Tests = 25%*

*Quizzes = 15%*

*Homework = 10%*

*Projects/Essays = 30%*

*Participation = 20%*

### **Quality of Work:**

Per Way Point policy, if you do not receive a score of 70% or higher on any assignment, quiz, or test, you may re-do the work until a minimum score of 70% has been obtained. However, in my class, all assignments must be re-done within seven days of the original due date.

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### **Missing Work:**

For excused absences only, you will receive one day to complete assignments for each day of school missed, not including out-of-school suspensions. However, if the due date of a test, quiz, or other major project has been announced prior to an absence, you are required to complete the assignment by the original due date. Please note: it is your responsibility to check on any missed work.

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### **Late Work:**

All homework assigned is due at the beginning of the following class period, unless otherwise specified. I will check at the beginning of the class to see whose homework has been completed. Usually, homework will then be reviewed and collected.

If you have not completed the assignment, you may participate in the review and turn in completed work for a score of 10% off the original grade.

Late work will be accepted under the following provisions:

- 10% will be deducted from the total score for each day an assignment is late, up to three days (for example, if a paper is worth 100 points and is turned in one day late, the best score possible is 90 points).
  - 50% will be deducted from the total score for any assignment turned in four to seven days late, unless otherwise negotiated between student and teacher. No work will be accepted beyond seven days of the original due date.
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### **Bathroom / Locker Passes:**

You will be allowed to leave class to go to the bathroom or your locker if absolutely necessary. However, this will occur only in cases of emergency, and only at my discretion. You will not be allowed to leave class without first signing out in your planner.