



Dear Parents and Students:

My name is Ms. Akopyan and I am your 8th grade English teacher for the 2019-2020 school year. The following letter will explain both our academic goals for the year and my classroom rules and grading policies.

As an English teacher, I have three primary objectives: to introduce, encourage and support the ENJOYMENT of reading and writing, to illustrate to each of you how the development of good literacy skills will keep you succeeding in every aspect of your future plans in life, and to provide you with the means of acquiring those skills.

Our primary learning objectives will emphasize gaining further proficiency in the following three areas: Reading, Writing, and Listening and Oral presentation.

SUGGESTED Materials to be brought to class every day:

- 4 pens: blue, black, red, and green (or one with all colors (may be purchased at dollar tree))**
- Pencils
- Highlighter
- 3 ring binder & dividers
(Should be shared with different class(es))
- Paper (college rule)
- Spiral/composition notebook (solely for English class-cannot be shared with other class(es))**
- Required class book
- Flashcards
- Homework Assignments
- You! READY TO LEARN!

Classroom Rules and Expected Behavior Matrix

	Be Responsible	Be Kind	Be Reflective
Arrival	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Come in quietly and begin "Do Now" 👉 Have all your materials with you 👉 Use bathroom before class 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Greet the teacher and your classmates with a smile 👉 Say "Hello" or "Good morning" 👉 Be silent during announcements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Am I behaving like I am aware I am entering an academic environment?
Direct Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Face forward 👉 Take notes 👉 Ask questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Use polite words and actions 👉 Avoid speaking to and distracting classmates while Ms. Akopyan is teaching 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Am I understanding what is being taught? 👉 Should I come in for extra help and clarification?
Individual Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Stay in your assigned seat 👉 Focus on task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Avoid distracting your classmates 👉 Avoid the misuse of cellphones 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Am I making good use of class time by practicing and asking questions?
Group Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Stay on task with your group members 👉 Complete task in a timely manner 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Include <i>all</i> members of the group in discussion 👉 Use appropriate language 👉 Keep voice volume appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Did I contribute my share of the work to the group to complete the task?
Whole Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Actively listen to peers 👉 Ask questions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Raise your hand to participate in discussions 👉 Show understanding and respect the opinions of others. 👉 Be respectful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Was I supportive of the learning process for my group members? 👉 Did I voice my opinions <i>respectfully</i>?
Dismissal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Wait to be dismissed by your teacher 👉 Stay seated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Make sure your area is clean 👉 Exit quietly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 👉 Do I know what the homework expectations are? 👉 Did I leave the room ready for the next class?

Cheating & Electronics

Please refer to GUSD's district wide academic honesty and electronics policy.

Grading Policy

Criteria for Final Semester Grade:

Tests/Quizzes 15% Essays 30% Home/Classwork 15% Final 10% Projects 20% Participation 10%

Grades will be based on a basic grading scale. Here is the semester, permanent record breakdown of grades.

90-100% A 80-89% B 70-79% C 60-69% D 0-59% F

*All assignments are graded on a 4 point scale and weighted according to the percentages above.

Students need to remember that EVERYTHING counts. Even the “little” assignments will add up and affect your overall semester grade. Remember, late work, while only worth half credit is still much better than a ‘0’!

Absences & Missed Work:

Students are, of course, given time to make up any work or tests missed due to **excused** absences. Generally, the student is given a number of days for makeup work that equals the number of days they were absent. (Ex: two days = two days to complete make up work for full credit.) ***Work received one day late receives 75% of score earned; work received two days late receives 50% of score earned. NO WORK BEYOND 2 DAYS LATE WILL BE ACCEPTED***, including projects. NOTE: It is a student’s responsibility to consult the Homework Log about missed work and follow up with me at Snack or by appointment – NOT DURING INSTRUCTIONAL TIME. ***Work must be completed PRIOR to planned absences because of school activities.*** Regular attendance is very important, because most in-class exercise cannot be made up.

THERE IS NO EXTRA CREDIT.

Students will not be given extra assignments to cover low or incomplete assignments.



Parent Contact Policy

My conference period is from 12:52-1:47. Please feel free to call or email me. I can be reached by email at armineakopyan@gusd.net . Please allow 24-48 hours for a response to email inquiries. I will return phone messages during my conference period or after school.

Google Classroom



Google Classroom is a blended platform that aims to simplify distributing and grading assignments in a paperless way. We will utilize this platform in numerous. Assignments will primarily be posted and turned in via Google Classroom. Classroom allows for digital access to all files, due dates, and instructions for assignments. Additionally, Google Classroom allows parents to keep track of student work including what has been missed and what will be due. In addition to the browser version, there is an app which gives notifications for new postings on an immediate basis. Students as well as parents are encouraged to keep track of assignments in this way. For more information on how to enroll as a parent, please see the tear off at the end of the syllabus. **All students have access to google classroom and google docs through their GUSD single sign-on, and only through their GUSD single sign-on.**



Remind

Remind is a free text messaging app that helps teachers communicate with students, and parents quickly and efficiently. This will only be used as a **one-way** communication tool, meaning I will send notifications, reminders, or announcements only. You and your child are encouraged to join.

1. *Please Text the class code to 81010.*
2. *Then write S for student or P for parent.*
3. *Next, type your name.*

Period	Class Code
Period 1	@akopyan1
Period 2	@akopyan2
Period 4	@akopyan4
Period 5	@akopyan5
Period 6	@akopyan6



Journals

Students are expected to bring a college ruled spiral notebook or composition book to class every day to respond to prompts, take notes, and to participate in a variety of in-class activities.

