

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

I want to extend the warmest of welcomes to our 8th grade classroom! I am looking forward to getting to know each one of you this year and am excited to share in the experiences ahead of us! We will be spending time together in either Georgia Studies or English Language Arts, perhaps both!

Teaching is not just a job for me, it is a passion! You can rest assured that our classroom will be an environment of safety, learning, growth, humor, and fun. I have made a promise to try and teach your child to the utmost of my ability as an educator. I know that between you, our student, and myself we will have a successful year!

Below you will find the goals, expectations, material that will be needed, classroom rules/consequences, and a tentative classroom schedule. Take note that on the very last page of this packet, you will find a signature sheet. Please read through the materials in front of you and after each of you, student and parent/guardian, have read the material, please sign and date on the designated lines. The signatures will let me know that all parties are aware of the rules, consequences (positive and negative), and the schedule and that you agree to them. You will also find my contact information. Please feel free to call me or e-mail me should you need to do so!

You may also look at our class Canvas site at any time to see a more detailed weekly schedule. This schedule will have exact assignments and their due dates, as well as any other materials that might be needed for the course.

WELCOME!

Samantha D. Christensen  
schristensen@paulding.k12.ga.us

**Goals:**

There are several goals that will be set in place in our classroom. Although they may not be purely academic goals, these goals are important because they will help our student throughout life.

1. The teacher and students will respect each other. We may not like each other all the time but respect is mandatory.
2. Students will learn to accept that they are responsible for their actions and reactions.
3. Students will perform to their highest ability possible. Slacking is not acceptable nor tolerated.

**Rules/Regulations:**

I have very few rules. I expect that each student which comes into the classroom, will meet all classroom standards. Not because they have too **but because they are capable**. It will be very hard for any student get a failing grade and not succeed. All rules will be ENFORCED!

1. Each student must abide **by any and all school/district rules and policies**. If there are questions/concerns about these, please consult your handbook or speak to administration.
2. Books and materials must be brought to class EACH AND EVERYDAY unless otherwise directed.
3. Students and Teachers WILL be respectful of each other. (This includes when speaking to each other in any situation, abiding by classroom procedures, and the treatment of classroom materials.)
4. **FIGHTING, BULLYING, VULGAR LANGUAGE or NAME CALLING WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!**

**Discipline:** Students are expected to behave properly and follow the rules listed in the student handbook—including dress code and cell phone policies.

**General Classroom Procedures:** Although these will vary from day today, depending on what we must accomplish, we will have a basic schedule. Students are expected to enter the room respectfully and are to be PREPARED for the class session. If materials other than books, pens, paper, etc are required, the teacher will instruct students on how to obtain these.

**Students are expected to check the board for the listed agenda, new journal entry assignments, or warmups. After completion, students are expected to put these into their notebooks and read a book of their choice silently.** We will begin the lesson by answering any questions that the class might have and will briefly review previous class materials if needed. When the class period ends, the classroom should be left clean, having put all materials in their proper places, and students should exit the classroom quietly.

**Out of Classroom Procedures:** I have adopted the following policy: If a student needs to leave the room (to go to locker, bathroom, forgot something in another class, etc.), he/she will be given three passes each nine weeks to use when needed. After the three passes are used, the student is not allowed out of class. At the end of the nine weeks, the unused passes can be used as extra credit points on their lowest grade (3 points for each pass). \*\*If a student is sick, he/she will not be penalized.

**Absences:** A student with an excused absence is allowed 3 SCHOOL DAYS to make up missed work. Assignments due on the day absent aren't considered missed work and are due the day a student returns to school. After three days, a zero is automatically entered into the computer. If a child misses a test or quiz and his/her absence is excused, he/she can schedule a time after school to make it up.

**Grading Policy: The grades and assignments are broken into Two categories:**

Formative: 40%  
Summative: 60%

Feel free to contact me at any time. I encourage your involvement. I realize that the education of your child is as important to you as it is to me. My email address is:  
[schristensen@paulding.k12.ga.us](mailto:schristensen@paulding.k12.ga.us)

Remind Codes:

3<sup>rd</sup> Period ELA: @ela32021  
4<sup>th</sup> Period ELA: @ela42021  
5<sup>th</sup> Period ELA: @ela52021

Canvas ELA: Link will be sent VIA Remind as they course is put together.

You can find the lesson plans, assignments, forms, and handouts on the website listed. I **encourage you to check the Parent Portal regularly** to keep apprised of your child's grades. I look forward to hearing from you and working with your child.

Samantha Christensen

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