

# Reading Plus

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## Welcome!

Welcome to the Voyager team and Reading Plus! I am Mrs. Stones and I am very excited to have you in this class! This is my sixth year at WRMS, but it's actually my eighth if you count the two years I spent here as a student. I graduated from Washburn Rural High School in 2002 and from Washburn University in 2006. You'll find out more about me as you continue to read this syllabus. It is designed to give you some information on how this class will work. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask, email, or call!

## Course Content

Reading Plus includes instruction on reading, study skills, and technology. Students read various novels as a class, in small groups, and on their own with Independent Reading (IR). We will also explore study skills and strategies as a means to help make us better readers. Finally, we will spend time in the computer lab developing keyboarding skills and creating documents, spreadsheets, presentations, and even a web page.

## Classroom Rule

**ALWAYS BEHAVE IN A WAY THAT DOESN'T INTERFERE WITH ANYONE'S LEARNING—INCLUDING YOUR OWN.**

I use this one rule because it pretty much covers everything. For example, if you are talking while I'm talking, that would be breaking the rule because you (and the others around you) are missing the lesson if you are talking. In another example, if you are tapping on your desk while I'm teaching, that is breaking the rule because it distracts others from listening to the lesson. If I ask you to discuss something with your partner, you would be breaking the rule if you didn't share. That would be interfering with learning because you are not participating in the lesson.

## Grading

I would love to never assign grades. It would be wonderful to simply monitor your progress and help you become better readers without ever having to give you an actual letter grade. However, governing wisdom requires me to write a grade on your grade card. That grade is meant to be a representation of **what you know and can do**. It is not meant to reflect how hard you work, whether or not you participate, or how organized you are, though those things contribute significantly to how you gain knowledge and ability. As a result, your grades will be almost entirely composed of **assessments**. These include tests, projects, presentations, speeches, etc. The remaining portion of your grade will be made up of **practice** scores, which consist of activities completed in class and as homework.

## Late Work

You are expected to turn your work in on time. Not doing so will result in the following consequences:

First Offense	Second Offense	Third Offense	Fourth Offense
Unpleasant discussion and time after class	Unpleasant discussion, time after class, and student makes a phone call home	Unpleasant discussion, time after class, detention assigned	Unpleasant discussion, time after class, office referral

PLEASE NOTE that with group units, such as the literature circles, we will skip the consequences for the **second offense** and go straight to offense three. I take these offenses a bit more seriously since it is not only the student who suffers when he/she does not complete work, but members of the group as well. **Turning in your work on time GUARENTEES you will never suffer any of the above consequences.**

# Redoing Work

I expect you to complete the work you are assigned in class. Because of this expectation, I do not provide opportunities for extra credit. However, I do allow you to redo any assignment with which you are unhappy. I also allow you to retake tests/quizzes and redo projects/papers, etc. To do this, however, you must complete “qualifiers.” Qualifiers are extra practice opportunities which must be completed and handed in before you are eligible to redo. I do this because, if you do not pass the first time, it’s obvious you need more practice. Redos of assessments must be done on your own time (before school, after school, during study hall, during EO, etc.) and must be scheduled with me in advance.

# Classroom Expectations

What I Expect of You	What You Can Expect of Me
1. I expect you to be respectful of <b>all</b> people and property.	I will be respectful toward you and your property.
2. I expect you to come to class prepared and on time. (More than 2 tardies in any Voyager class will result in detention.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pencil/paper</li><li>• Planner</li><li>• IR book</li></ul>	I will have the classroom and the lesson prepared. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agenda on the board</li><li>• Materials prepared</li><li>• Lesson ready</li></ul>
3. I expect your work to be completed and turned in by the due date. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Homework, unless otherwise explained, is due the next day.</li><li>• Homework not completed by your hour will be accepted until 2:50 that day.</li><li>• IR pages are due on Wednesday of the last week of the quarter.</li></ul>	I will do my best to get your work graded and returned to you in a timely manner. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work turned in by Friday will be in the next week’s Wednesday folder.</li><li>• I will <b>do my best</b> to see that assessments (tests, papers, projects) are graded and returned within one week.</li></ul>
4. I expect you to put forth your best effort in the classroom.	I will give you my best effort in the classroom.

# Classroom Website

As you’ll discover, I love technology, and one of the best ways to communicate (and to keep parents updated) is a classroom website. You can access my website through the school’s homepage ([www.wrms.net](http://www.wrms.net)). This website is updated weekly and includes the following:

- A weekly calendar that includes a daily agenda
- Specific information about any books we’re reading, activities we’re doing, and projects we’re completing
- Summaries and recommendations of books
- A list of the Voyager Team’s Top Ten IR Readers (updated weekly)
- Much more!

If you miss class, this is a great place for you to go to see what you missed. There are also links on the WRMS Homepage for parent information, extracurricular activities, and upcoming events.