

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am pleased to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you and to welcome your child to my class. My name is Amanda Nagy and I am a highly qualified teacher. My educational background consists of a bachelor's degree from John Carroll University and I have successfully taken and passed Praxis II exams in Reading, Middle School Language Arts, Middle School Mathematics, and Principles of Learning and Teaching 5-9. This is my sixth year of teaching and I am licensed in Middle Childhood Math and Language Arts, as well as K-12 Reading. I also have a Master's degree in Curriculum and Education acquired from Nova Southeastern University. I believe that a good learning experience is built on a cooperative effort among parent, child, and teacher. I look forward to the work and growth we will all accomplish this year.

My expectations for conduct and academic standards are high. I feel that each child should follow the basic rules of respect for his/her classmates and teachers. As children prove to me that they are capable of handling more freedom without infringing on the freedom of others, they will receive it. The class rules of academic conduct, along with rewards and consequences, are posted in the room where each student can be reminded what is acceptable behavior at all times. This will require a lot of hard work and effort by every child. Therefore, your child will have homework just about every night. I do not look at homework as a means of punishment; it is used in order to increase your child's knowledge of the content we are working with. **Your child will have homework every night.** Please make sure that they are working on this as a means of reinforcement. It may be helpful for part of your child's homework that there is a dictionary and a calculator for them to use at home, for they may be useful on some homework assignments. I am also requiring that assignment notebooks are signed every night by parents/guardians to ensure that homework is being done at home.

Seventh grade is a very important year for your child. This is year of continual growth and effort within the middle school. With that in mind, our sixth, seventh, and eighth graders will be switching classes among the five middle school teachers. Your seventh grade student will be attending homeroom, reading, and spelling with myself, social studies with Mr. Fitzsimmons, science with Mr. Jasinski, language arts with Ms. Osterman, and mathematics with Ms. Middleton. All five teachers will follow the same classroom rules and procedures, along with the same discipline policies. Since all sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students will be switching classes for each subject, so there should not be any reason for students to forget the items they need for each class. We will be using a check system to monitor student behavior. Each class will have a "check folder" where teachers will place a check next to a student's name for inappropriate classroom behavior. Essentially, a child will have three strikes on the check sheet. The first two are basically warnings to get back on track, a third check will result in an after-school detention. Any student requiring an after-school detention will serve the detention on the next day. A

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notice will be sent home for a parent/guardian signature and returned to the teacher. The teacher who assigns the detention will handle the detention, unless otherwise noted. Finally, it is important that your child attend school everyday, unless a serious illness occurs. In the case that your student is absent from school, please call the office to notify us. A folder will go around from class to class, to ensure that your child's work will be collected to be completed when he/she returns. Each child will receive one day per day absent to complete and turn in assignments for full credit.

With your participation both in and out of the classroom, we can look forward to a productive, creative, and enjoyable year together. One way you can help is by providing me with any information that will aid me in understanding your child better. Some things I am interested in include the following:

- Important experiences that may be affecting your child's state of mind (death in the family, a best friend moving away, loss of a pet, etc.)
- Study habits at home
- Television viewing habits
- After-school activities and special interests
- Feelings toward school
- Conflicts with family members

Although I am interested in anything that could be affecting your child, it is not necessary for you to reveal personal information. Please know that anything you do say will be kept in the strictest confidence.

**We also have a new website and email system available for communication. I will provide various updates on my page to let you know of upcoming assignments and other items of importance that may arise. The address is: www.wpcschoo.org. You can also email me at anagy@wpcschoo.org

Again, welcome! Please feel free contact me about any questions or concerns you may have. If you would like a conference, I would be glad to arrange one. My classroom door is always open, and messages can be left for me with our secretary, to which I will respond as soon as possible.

Attached are my homework policy, class discipline plan, and rewards and consequences. Please read over these items, sign at the bottom, and return with your child by Wednesday, September 5th.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Nagy

Homework Policy

Students are to keep track of all assignments in their assignment book. If a student loses his/her book, it is their responsibility to purchase a new one. All assignments are to be turned in to the appropriate teacher at the beginning of each class. Any child who fails to do the required homework will lose 10% of his/her grade for each day that the assignment is not turned in. After five days of missing work the student will only receive a maximum of 50% for the assignment or the score that matches the amount of work done, whichever is higher. Work that is turned in after 5 days will not be graded at anything higher than 50% regardless of whether or not all answers are correct. It is important that all students complete the necessary homework assignments in order to practice and apply the skills and concepts we are learning in class.

Class Rules

Students are to . . .

1. follow directions the first time they are given.
2. respect adults, each other, and all property.
3. keep hands, feet, and all objects to yourself.
4. stay seated.
5. speak quietly (use an indoor voice).

Rewards and Consequences

We will be using a behavior checklist for classroom management. As part of becoming a young adult, it is your child's responsibility to accept the consequences for his/her actions as well as keep track of what level of discipline they are at. The master chart will follow the students from class to class so all teachers can chart individual behavior. On this chart, each student's name is listed with a corresponding column indicating which level of discipline he/she is at. When a student does not follow a rule and needs to be redirected, he/she will receive a check in the appropriate column. The columns and what they represent:

- ◆ **1st column, Warning:** Student needs redirected, not meeting expectations of teacher
- ◆ **2nd column, 2nd Warning:** Student needs redirected a second time for not meeting expectations
- ◆ **3rd column, After-School Detention:** Student will stay after-school on specified date to discuss the failure to meet teachers expectations and demands of being a WPCS student
- ◆ **Office:** Student is sent to office with a discipline referral (Severe behavioral problems will be directed straight to the office with a discipline referral).

Reasons to get a check: inappropriate behavior, such as chewing gum, other unacceptable actions, etc.

Student showing the ability to meet and exceed teacher expectations will be rewarded. Rewards will include: homework passes, free time in the gym, "good" note or call home, lunch with friend, and movies.

With this system, I reinforce positive behavior. If any student persists in negative behavior, his or her parent will be contacted for a conference. Please reinforce at home that each child is responsible for his or her own behavior. Self-discipline is one of the best lessons a child can learn!

I have read and agree to the middle school policies and procedures given to me at this time.

Student's signature: _____

Parent/Guardian's signature: _____