



**Ms. Ward**  
**cward@schools.nyc.gov**  
**EIGHTH GRADE ENGLISH**  
**2015-2016**

**WELCOME!**

Welcome to Ms. Ward's eighth grade English class! I look forward to having a great year with you.

This year, RKA will be implementing a Common Core Curriculum approved by The NYC Department of Education. RKA will be using Scholastic's Code X Curriculum in all ELA classes for grades 6-8. The curriculum, while challenging, is designed to provide students with frequent practice at key reading and writing tasks, so that students feel prepared for the increasingly demanding state assessments. The Code X Curriculum is built around short but challenging grade level texts. Each unit concludes with both an extended writing task. Code X is embedded with some book studies and creative projects. Literature classes will focus on book studies, and creative, hands-on reading, writing, and speaking projects.

**GOALS:**

- Students will be able to write argumentative, informative, and imaginative texts to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and sufficient
- Students will read and analyze complex fiction and non-fiction texts and multimedia.
- Students will initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions with diverse partners on a range of topics, texts, issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.

**CURRICULUM:**

You will find a detailed curriculum map for this class year on the RKA website.

**EXPECTATIONS:**

Sure ways to succeed in this class:

- Be prepared and on time to class every day.
- Turn in assignments on time. (Students have 3 days to complete missed work with proof)
- Learn from your mistakes and always reflect on your progress.
- Follow all school rules outlined in RKA's Student Handbook. (NYC Dept. of Education prohibits the use of cell phones and other electronic devices in school at all times!)

**GRADING POLICY:**

In all classes at RKA this year, including this one, we will be grading notebooks.

\*All grades will be updated on weekly basis via our online grading system

[www.jupitergrades.net](http://www.jupitergrades.net)



**Principal**  
Lori O'Mara

**Assistant Principals**  
Sheilagh Lustig  
Stacy Miller  
Subhas Mohan

**Notebook 10%**

- Graded at the end of each unit

**Classwork and Participation 25%**

- Class discussion
- Group work
- Following instructions
- Sharing work aloud
- Being prepared for class
- Independent work during class time is completed

**Homework 15%**

- Homework assignments and readings are completed and handed in on time

**Assessment 50%**

- Essays
- Quizzes
- Tests
- Projects
- Presentations

**Extra Help**

- 4rd period lunch & after school by appointment
- Feel free to email me any questions or concerns. My e-mail address is [cward@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:cward@schools.nyc.gov)

***Please sign below, have your parent/guardian sign, and return to Ms. Ward by Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>***

I have read Ms. Ward's syllabus and course expectations. I have discussed my expectations for English this year with my parents or guardians.

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Student's Name

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Student's Signature:

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Parent/Guardian's Name

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Parent/Guardian's Signature

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Parent/Guardian's phone number

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Parent/Guardian's E-mail

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Parent/Guardian's Name

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