

Welcome and Congratulations!

Welcome back Wildcats, and a special welcome, Wildkits - the Class of 2022! Freshmen through seniors are already at work wrapping up summer reading Socratic seminars, speeches, in-class essays, and projects, and the English department is busy introducing students to the first units of the year.

Words like “explicit and implied,” “inference,” “theme,” “annotations,”

“claims,” and “evidence” resonate through the hallways, and students are busy reading mythology, dystopian short stories, canonical novels, British and world literature and much, much more.

Our mission remains the same: The Community High School District 94 Language Arts Division exists to develop an environment and a curriculum that encourages a lifelong appreciation of reading, writing, and speaking as universally attainable means of profoundly enriching one’s own life experiences. Students should expect to be routinely challenged to become increasingly more proficient communicators and grow in their understanding of the various ways in which human beings make sense of their worlds with words. Our motto, “Find your voice” is also critical as students are encouraged to use the skills, strategies, and dispositions they learn in class in the “real world.”



In addition to welcoming students, the start of the year is a great opportunity to

congratulate

three Wego English teachers for earning their **National Board Certification**.

Jen Culbertson, Nicole Osborne, and Lauren Stewart each became National Board certified this year. Only 118,000 teachers nationwide have earned this distinction.

The National Board Certification Program seeks to develop and recognize excellence in teaching and requires educators to demonstrate evidence of commitment to five principles:

Teachers are committed to

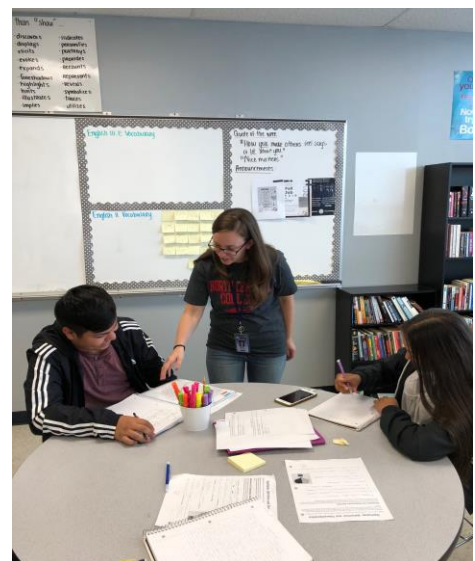
students and their learning.

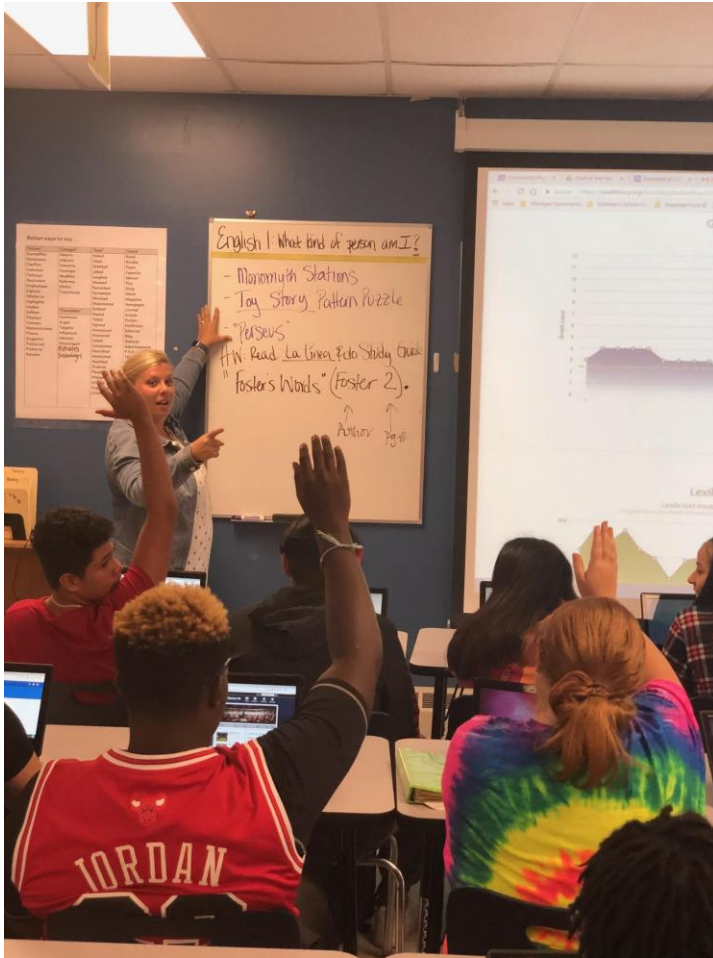
Teachers know the subjects they teach and how to teach those subjects to students.

Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning.

Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience.

Teachers are members of learning communities.





National Board Certification is valuable as an opportunity for teachers to grow as professionals. Research demonstrates that on average students of NBC teachers gain an additional one to two months of growth during the school year, and this impact is even greater for minority and low-income students.

Culbertson stressed that National Board Certification has motivated her to seek out additional opportunities to mentor colleagues. An English 1 and English 1 Lab teacher and ROAR co-sponsor, Culbertson shared that this certification “comes with a duty or privilege to mentor new teachers,” so this year she serves as a District 94 mentor for new language arts division member, Leslie Fireman.

Osborne noted that the process led to even greater professional metacognition. An AP Language and Literature teacher, Osborne stated that the certification process “taught [her] a lot of what’s important to [students’] learning.” One of Osborne’s goals for the 2018-2019 school year is to expand collaboration with AP Language colleague Brian Turnbaugh regarding students’ abilities to write effectively in a variety of modes and improve their responses to Advanced

Placement extended responses on close reading.

Stewart, an English 2, English 2 Lab, and English 3 Enriched teacher and sponsor of the Wego Women’s Leadership Summit, remarked, “I am proud of myself for receiving my certificate, but what I look forward to most is sharing what I have learned with others and, like my peer Mary Ellen Daneels who was tremendously helpful and a knowledgeable resource for me, be a support for my peers as they decide to engage in the process.” Stewart will take a leadership role with English teachers of sophomores and Enriched juniors this year and looks forward to collaborating with other prospective National Board candidates.

Please congratulate the English department’s National Board Certified teachers when you see them at Parent Teacher Conferences this fall or at other school events, or read “English teachers earn National Board Certification” in the student newspaper, *The Wildcat Chronicle*, written by sophomore reporter Isabela Casimiro at <https://wildcatchronicle.org/5137/news/english-teachers-earn-national-board-certification/> The department is proud of the work of these professionals.

Articles from division administrators are provided on a regular schedule in our Community eNewsletter to keep parents and community members informed. Questions on this article may be directed to Ms. Mary Howard, language arts division head, at mhoward@d94.org or by phone at (630) 876-6363.