

Language Arts/United States History/Reading

8th Grade Language Arts & Social Studies Block 2017-2018

Teacher Contact Information

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Course Description

The eighth grade core curriculum includes reading, writing, listening, and speaking standards. Additionally, our block will cover the United States History standards. Because the two courses are combined, language arts standards will frequently be mastered through a United States History perspective. Students are expected to read from a wide variety of genres, both in class and at home. This course includes vigorous writing instruction in poetry, narrative, informational, and argumentative writing. Speaking and listening skills will be refined through oral presentations, group work, class discussion and debates, and note-taking. All classroom activities and assessments are aligned with the Utah Core Standards.

Course Goals and Objectives

- Students will improve critical thinking and problem solving skills in both individual and cooperative activities.
- Reading comprehension will be refined through reading and analysis of literary and nonfiction texts.
- Writer's Notebooks will be used to improve conventions, sentence structure and fluency, ideas, voice, organization and word choice. Students will complete the writing process in Utah Core aligned assessments in poetry, narrative, informational, and argumentative writing.
- Students will analyze primary and secondary United States History sources to evaluate our understanding of our diverse community, rich history, and our relationship to the nation.

Course Materials

Call to Freedom; Beginnings to 1877, by Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, ISBN 0-03-052457-1 school set

Literature, Bronze 2nd Ed., Prentice Hall, ISBN: 0136917348 school set Writers Choice: Grammar & Composition, Glencoe McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 0028181484

Literature, Silver 2nd Ed., Prentice Hall, ISBN: 0-13-691742-9

Collections 8, Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt, ISBN: 978-0-544-09095-8

Writers Choice: Grammar & Composition, Glencoe McGraw-Hill. ISBN: 0028181484

Internet, news media, pod casts, and classroom novel use will also be important components of our study.

Format and Procedures

- Our class work will regularly use small and large group discussions, questioning methods, inquiry, presentations and the like.
- It is our expectation that students will keep up with assignments and homework. It is the student's responsibility to record assignments and homework in their planner each day. There will be some homework each day. It is the student's responsibility to finish class work at home when necessary. Completing class work and homework will help the students to improve their readiness for subsequent learning. This is integral for building student success.
- We expect your student will read at least twenty to thirty minutes each day. There may be additional homework assigned throughout the year. We understand that the amount of time per day may vary as the schedules of the days vary but reading is as essential as breathing for increasing learning.
- No hall passes are granted unless there is an emergency.
 - Students are required to have the following supplies in class everyday
 - a 1-inch binder (not the floppy kind) with pockets
 - 5 dividers
 - lined notebook paper
 - a composition notebook
 - Additionally, students need to bring the following materials to class every day:
 - A pen or pencil
 - An independent reading book
 - A set of 3-5 multi-colored highlighters
 - A flash drive or email address. (Flash drives may be borrowed from teachers under pre-arranged extenuating circumstances).
 - If you need assistance acquiring these materials, your teachers are happy to help, make arrangements with them as soon as possible.

Course Requirements

- Daily attendance is most helpful to successful learning. Students should attend class on a daily basis.
- Come to class prepared to learn and with the required materials.
- Complete and submit all assignments, homework, and classwork on or before the due date.
- Create a positive learning environment.
- While parental guidance is appreciated, the best assessment of growth in content, processes, and skills can be seen in the student's own efforts.

- Students caught cheating will receive a zero on the assignment. If a student is caught cheating a second time, a meeting with parents will be scheduled. Any subsequent cheating will include student, parent, teacher, and school administration.
- Citizenship (student behavior) will be evaluated within Clayton Middle School's academic and behavioral expectations, as well as classroom citizenship guidelines.
- Late work will be docked 5% of the grade earned by the student. Assignments will be due at the beginning of class, and anything not turned in within the first 5 minutes of class will be considered late, and the earned grade penalized accordingly.
- Plagiarism, which is using or closely imitating the language and thoughts of another author without authorization or giving credit the original author, is not allowed. Those who plagiarize will receive a zero and an opportunity to resubmit another edit, receiving late credit. Second offenders of plagiarism will not be allowed resubmission, the assignment will have a final score of zero, and a meeting with parents and administration will be scheduled.

Grading

Work is graded when it is due at the beginning of class. Assignments turned in at the end of class will be marked late. Assignments past their due date will receive a 0 in the computer grading program until the late work is turned in and the teacher has time to grade the past due work. Assignments with 'missing' and zero may be made up for 95% credit of the student's earned grade. The block class is worth two credits; therefore your student will be given two grades on the report card.

Citizenship is evaluated against the expectations stated in the student planner, and school policies.

Power School is the district grade access system. Please use your pin number, when it becomes available, to frequently monitor the progress of your student. Grades for your student will be recorded in language arts class section, and then copied into the social studies class at mid-terms, and updated and copied into the social studies course again at the end of quarter.

Please also check the teacher's websites for run downs of class room activities, homework, etc. Contact us via phone, email, or in person whenever you have questions.

Discrimination Policy

No district employee or student shall be subjected to discrimination in employment or any district program or activity on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, pregnancy, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status. The district is committed to providing equal access and equal opportunity in its programs, services and employment including its policies, complaint processes, program accessibility, district facility use, accommodations and other Equal Employment Opportunity matters. The district also provides equal access to district facilities for all youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code, including scouting groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries and complaints regarding unlawful discrimination, harassment, and retaliation: Whitney Banks, Compliance and Investigations, 440 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111, (801) 578-8388. You may also contact the Office for Civil Rights, Denver, CO, (303) 844-5695.

Keep these first pages for your own records, please return the Document Agreement Page.

Ms. Winn & Ms. Christiansen Open Disclosure Document Agreement Page:

Printed Name of Parent: _____

Email address of Parent: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Printed Name of Student: _____

Email address of Student: _____

Student Signature: _____

Questions? Write them in the space provided and we will get back to you.

Tell us something, or many things, that are important to know about your student:
