

**Clayton Middle School**  
**Curriculum and Assessment Language Arts & U.S. History**  
**2018-2019 Disclosure Statement**  
**Mrs. Shannon Herbert**

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### **Course Description**

The middle school core curriculum includes reading, writing, listening, and speaking standards. Because the two courses are combined, language arts standards will frequently be mastered through a U.S. 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.

In addition, the curriculum and assessment program focuses on six key performance results:

- **Contributor to Community:** Students will become involved, responsible citizens of local and global communities as they learn to understand, respect, and interact with people of different cultures, generations, and races.
- **Quality Worker and Producer:** Students will work toward consistently producing high quality products that achieve a purpose, are appropriate to the audience, and reflect craftsmanship.
- **Self-Directed Learner:** Students will acquire habits that allow them to direct their own learning: to think, solve problems, continually gain knowledge, and understand their own learning processes.
- **Complex Thinker and Problem Solver:** Students will develop the ability to access, generate, and use information from diverse sources and perspectives as they work to think divergently and anticipate, recognize, and solve problems in a variety of contexts.
- **Effective Communicator:** Students will display the ability to send and receive messages through a variety of modes: active listening, speaking, observing, understanding, and reflecting in oral, written, and symbolic form.
- **Cooperative Group Participant and Leader:** Students will work effectively with others, value differing points of view, and appreciate people from varying backgrounds as they learn to interact with diverse groups.

### **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.
- Writers' 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.
- Our students will work to know the history of America and through historical perspectives understand how these events influence today and our future.

### **Course Materials**

- *Collections 8*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; ISBN 978-0-544-09095-8
- *Collections 8: Close Reader*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; ISBN 978-0-544-08906-8
- *Collections 8: Performance Assessment*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; ISBN 978-0-544-14758-4

- *Literature*, Silver; Prentice Hall; ISBN 0-13-691734-8
- *Writer's Choice*, Green; McGraw Hill; ISBN 0-02-653878-6
- Various supplemental materials that support the themes and events presented in this course.
- Students are responsible for returning textbooks with the number assigned to them. Returning a book of a different number will not be accepted. All lost books will be paid for in the main office.

### **Format and Procedures**

- Our class will regularly use group and partner work, debates, inquiry, and presentations.
- Individual accountability and student responsibility is mandatory; students are expected to record their assignments and homework in their planner on a daily basis. It is the student's responsibility to complete class work and homework.
- Students need the following materials:
  - A ½ or 1-inch binder (not the floppy kind) with pockets and five dividers (this will be kept in the classroom at all times)
  - lined notebook paper
  - A pen or pencil
  - An independent reading book
  - A two-pocket folder for transporting homework and reading notes to/from school
  - A set of 3-5 multi-colored highlighters

### **Course Requirements**

- Each student is required to:
  - Come to class prepared to learn and with the required materials.
  - Complete and submit all assignments by the due date.
  - Contribute to the class in a positive way.
  - Do their best work.
  - Respect themselves and everyone else in the classroom.
- While parental guidance is appreciated, the best assessment of growth in content, processes, and skills can be seen in the student's own efforts.
- Plagiarism is not allowed. Those who plagiarize will receive a zero and an opportunity to resubmit, receiving late credit. Second offenders of plagiarism will not be allowed resubmission, the assignment will receive a final score of zero, and a meeting with parents and administration will be scheduled.
- 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.
- Students are expected to read *at least* twenty minutes each day at home and complete weekly reading responses.
- Students will complete at least one book project per quarter based on their independent reading. Time may be given to work on book projects in class, but most of the work will need to be completed at home. Due dates for the book projects will be posted well in advance.

## **Grading Procedures**

- If a student misses a class, **the responsibility of getting the notes, activity sheets and assignments is that of the student.** It is also the student's responsibility to speak with the teacher about any material they may not understand from the time they were absent. Students can find their make-up work in the Make Up basket in the classroom. Work that is not made up will result in a zero in the grade book.
- Late work and assignments will be accepted with a 5% penalty for each day that it is late; late work will be accepted between the beginning of each term and midterm, and between midterm and the end of the term.
- Extra credit opportunities will be offered throughout the year; however, students should not depend on extra credit to significantly raise their grade. Completing all work on time is the best way to ensure a good grade in this class.
- Parents and students can check student progress through PowerSchool, accessible through the Clayton Middle School website.

## **Disclosure Signatures**

Please sign the last page. You may keep this document at home for future reference and only return the signature page to your teacher.

## Disclosure Signatures

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Student Name (Print)

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Student Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Parent Name (Print)

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Parent Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions:**

**Please tell me something about your child that would be useful for me to know as their teacher:**