

Sixth Grade Core Syllabus

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The subjects covered by 6th grade core classes at Mountain View Middle School are integrated Language Arts (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) and Social Studies (geography, cultures and settlement, history and civics, economics and government).

Integration

Integration of content areas simply means that each subject area is used as part of a framework to support learning in other subjects. Particularly at the middle level, use of integrated instructional strategies helps learners build important connections between knowledge, experience, and skills across a wide range of subjects. Writing, Reading, and Social Studies are particularly well-suited to an integrated approach because of how they support and draw upon each other in the learning process. At the same time, it is helpful to look at each of the subject areas individually in order to understand how they should work together.

Reading

At sixth grade, readers are expected to be independent across a wide range of reading materials, both fiction and non-fiction. The class uses poetry, novels, biography, and essays as gateways to better reading skills. Students continue to build critical and analytical skills with respect to author's craft and intent, while building the vocabulary to support interpretive skills. Each student is required to read independently at home daily. Reading is formally assessed by the district twice during the school year.

Writing

The class works to help student writers find their own writing voices by showing them how to uncover their own content, discover reasons for writing about it, and seek out an audience with whom to share their points of view. While experiencing many authentic reasons for writing, including narrative, persuasive, and expository modes, students learn the importance of following the writing conventions in order to create effectively written pieces. Students are required to publish their work to the classroom community regularly. Writing is formally assessed once during the year.

Speaking

Students are expected to orally deliver their views on a wide variety of topics in appropriate ways. They recite poetry from memory, give impromptu presentations, and prepare one formal presentation that is scored against the Oregon Benchmark for Speaking.

Social Studies

Geography, cultures and settlement, history and government, civics and current affairs, economics and trade – all are part of the Social Studies framework through which the class investigates Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, and the geography and history of the Western Hemisphere. These topics provide the context within which we discuss social issues raised by the literature we read, and give us content to enliven our writing.

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Classroom and Assignment Procedures

Synergy

Synergy will be updated regularly for this class, please check your grades on a regular basis. If you do not have a Synergy account password, please contact the front office to set one up.

Late Work

Assignments are due at the beginning of class unless otherwise designated by the teacher. If a student does not have an assignment completed when it is due, that student will be required to fill out a Missed Deadline Form as defined in the Student Handbook. Failure to either turn in the assignment or Missed Deadline Form will result in a detention. Late work due to an absence will follow the absence policy as defined in the school handbook.

Grading

Please refer to the standards and grading policy in the Student Handbook. Please note that, per district policy, all summative assessments (i.e. tests, projects, etc.) are worth 80% of a student's grade and formative assessments (i.e. class work, homework, etc.) make up the remaining 20%.

Contacting Mr. Alpert

It is easiest to contact me through email: alpermtm@newberg.k12.or.us

You may also call me at 503-554-5104 and I will return your call as soon as possible.

I enjoy meeting the parents of my students. If you would like to meet with me, please contact me so that we can arrange a time that works best for all concerned.

Class Rules

Class rules and expectations will be discussed in detail during the first week of class. A parent and student acknowledgement form that outlines the consequences for violating the class rules will be sent home to be signed and returned.

Digital Resource Use

Students will be asked to utilize online resources on a regular basis either during class or at home. It is expected that all district and school rules will be followed and that these resources will be used appropriately. In addition, we will often be discussing and investigating current events happening around the world, which may relate to issues such as extreme poverty, war, and other types of conflict. I encourage all parents to be actively involved in the research and at-home discussion of these issues.