

MONTE VISTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
HUMANITIES/ENGL 026, Language Arts Grade Six
Instructor: Carissa Medina
Course Syllabus

Course Description

This course is an integrated approach to mastering the Common Core State Standards in language study. Grammar, vocabulary study and writing projects are woven into the reading we will be doing in class. This course will engage students through an understanding of grade level texts to identify characteristics of short stories, novels, plays, poetry and essays; exhibit correct grammar and word usage in their written and oral responses; The course will focus on developing writing skills through narrative, expository, and persuasive essays. Concentration will be given to the structure of writing and to the development of a student's own written expression. Instructional models used will include productive group work, total participation techniques, project based learning and iPad implementation.

Curricular Mapping

This course will develop student skills addressed in the following state standards: Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. They describe and connect the essential ideas, arguments, and perspectives of the text by using their knowledge of text structure, organization, and purpose. Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of literature that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science. Students write clear, coherent, and focused essays. The writing exhibits students' awareness of the audience and purpose. Essays contain formal introductions, supporting evidence, and conclusions. These gateway skills will prepare students for writing in every subject area.

Course Objectives

Upon the successful completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. Read aloud narrative and expository text fluently and accurately and with appropriate pacing, intonation, and expression.
2. Connect and clarify main ideas by identifying their relationships to other sources and related topics.
3. Make reasonable assertions about a text through accurate, supporting citations.
4. Identify the forms of fiction and describe the major characteristics of each form.
5. Create multiple-paragraph expository compositions with emphasis on the persuasive essay: engage the interest of the reader and state a clear purpose. Develop the topic/opinion with supporting details and examples. Conclude with a detailed summary linked to the purpose of the composition.
6. Write and speak with a command of Standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.
7. Collaborate productively with peer while demonstrating an understanding of common interpersonal skills and elements of productive group work.
8. Understand and demonstrate the 5 Cs of 21st Century learning: Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, Critical Thinking and Caring.

School Objectives/ESLRs (Expected Schoolwide Learning Results)

Faculty and student emphasis for 2016-17 will be on our Technology ESLR as seen below.

Technology ESLR

In line with the school's Mission Statement, in particular, "dedicated to being a premier college preparatory Christian school", in particular, providing "innovative educational programs that prepare our students for success in life", graduates of Monte Vista are technologically fluent in current, mainstream computing technologies. A graduate of Monte Vista Christian School:

- A. Is technologically fluent in current, mainstream computing technologies.
- B. Demonstrates comfort using and adapting to new technologies and operating computing hardware and software.
- C. Demonstrates responsible **digital citizenship**, in particular with respect to safety, ownership rights, collaboration, publication, privacy, security and digital footprints.
- D. Demonstrates competence in transmitting digital data without the use of paper.
- E. Demonstrates competence in producing digital products, such as but not limited to notes, essays, projects, and presentations.
- F. Demonstrates on-line research competence to find answers and solve problems in real time scenarios.

Text: Your necessary digital texts for this class are part of a “Required Course Materials Fee” thru the EdTech bookstore. This bundle has your students schedule preloaded and the bulk of their required course materials already prepackaged for you. You were sent an email on 7/25/16 with detailed instructions for purchasing and activation. Please note: some courses may require additional purchases outside of the course materials fee.

Course Outline: (*Units will not necessarily occur in this order)

Unit 1: Plot, Conflict and Setting

Unit 2: Analyzing Character and Point of View

Unit 3: Understanding Theme

Unit 4: Sensory Language, Imagery and Style

Unit 5: The Language of Poetry

Unit 6: Myths and Fables

Unit 7: Biography and Autobiography

Unit 8: Information, Argument and Persuasion

Unit 9: The Power of Research

Supplemental Units:

Persuasive Essay Writing, The Current Event Response and Writing With Structure and Style

Outside of Class Reading:

Students *may* be asked to read:

- Summer reading is encouraged, though not required, to prepare students for literacy skills
- 1 novel of their own choice
- 1 biography or autobiography
- 1 teacher assigned novel

These selected readings are meant to broaden a student’s reading experience. There may be a book report or project assigned for these additional readings which will allow students to apply their understanding of the text.

Classroom Supplies:

Students are expected to come to class prepared to learn and engage on a daily basis. Students should have their supplies, including a charged iPad, **each and every day**. Random supply checks will be given and graded. The 6th grade supply list is included on the last page for easy reference.

Technology Support:

The teachers, administration, and the Help Desk are all here to support parents and students with the implementation of the iPad into the educational experience. While the Help Desk can assist with

technical issues that arise, teachers and administration take care to guide students in their role as digital citizens by promoting principles and values set forth through Common Sense Media and Social and Emotional Intelligence resources. Any concerns and/or questions regarding the role technology plays in a student's daily life may be communicated through an email to the teacher.

Grading:

Grading is based on a point scale. Tests, projects and other major assignments are worth more points than home-learning or in class assignments. Some collaborative assignments/projects will be graded as a team/partnership.

Projects and Tests – 55% of the class grade

Class/Home Activities and Assignments – 45% of the class grade

100%-90%=A Exceptional Work

89%-80%=B Very Good Work

79%-70%=C Average Work

69%-60%=D Below Average Work or Late Work

59%-50%=F Very Poor Work, Late Work or Work Not Turned In

Students are encouraged to talk to the teacher directly about their grade before or after school, at break or at lunch, or during Learning Lab, but not during class time.

Middle School Standard Grading Policy:

Please refer to the Middle School Handbook for full details.

Classroom Procedures:

Please refer to the instructor's online course, found on Focus, for a detailed description of classroom procedures. Each student should be familiar with these procedures and will be required to sign a copy stating that they understand what is expected of them in order to create a positive and purposeful classroom environment.

Classroom Management:

Instructors will guide each student towards making appropriate choices that lead to a safe, positive, effective and respectful classroom atmosphere. All students will be given ample opportunity to understand what is expected of them as far as rules and procedures. Please see the Student Handbook for a detailed description of our referral system, should students violate the classroom policies and procedures.

iPad Management Policy: Students are to use the iPad for educational purposes. Students must "face-plant" their iPad the first time they are asked to do so. No iMessaging, emailing, gaming, photo or video taking should occur at any time in class without permission. Students will be given a formal referral, including parent contact, for violations of the iPad policy. See the iPad Acceptable Use Policy for disciplinary action details.

*Parents, please do not iMessage your student during school hours. Please use their student email address or call the Middle School office to leave a message.

School Policies:

Students are subject to all academic policies of the school as printed in the Student Handbook. It is each student's responsibility to read and follow all academic policies of the school.

Additional Information:

Teachers are here to help every student succeed—academically, socially and spiritually. Let us know if you are struggling or having problems in an area so that we can help. The teachers and administrators at Monte Vista Christian Middle School are here to support you.

“Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.” Colossians 3:15-16

Instructor Contact:

Please contact the instructor directly with questions, concerns or to set up an appointment.
carissamedina@mvcs.org

Please DO NOT print the following signature page of this document; students will be shown how to sign and submit digitally within the first two weeks of school. Thank you!

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HUMANITIES/ENGL, 026, Language Arts Grade Six
Carissa Medina, Instructor
Terms of Agreement

This syllabus is a contract between the instructor and the student with a parent/guardian witness. As an instructor of this course, I am committed to abiding by this syllabus. By signing this Terms of Agreement, you are affirming that you have read and agree to abide by the guidelines, policies and agreements stated in this syllabus.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

As the parent/guardian, I have read and agree to support this student in an effort to follow the guidelines, policies and agreements stated in this syllabus.

Parents Signature _____ Date _____

Please do not print the signature page of this document; students will be shown how to sign and submit digitally within the first two weeks of school.

*Supply list on next 2 pages.

6th Grade Supply List

The following list includes supplies and iPad apps that each student will need for their 6th grade classes at Monte Vista Middle School. Students are expected to come to school each and every day prepared and ready to learn with the following items. If a 6th grade student is enrolled in a higher level class (i.e. math), see that grade level syllabus.

General School Supplies

- Colored pencils
- 1 folder
- 2 pencils
- 2 red pens

- Black or blue ball point pen
- Ear buds or ear phones

Math I Supplies only

- Pencil Pouch
 - Red pen
 - Mechanical Pencils
 - Lead
 - Eraser
 - Calculator Ti-30xiis
 - 3 Dry Erase pens per quarter

- 1in 3 ring binder
- 4 Dividers
- Graph Paper
- Notebook paper
- Pre-Algebra App by yourteacher.com

iPad Apps: (To be purchased by the student; see the Apple store for current cost)

- Keynote
- Notability
- Pages
- Timeline Builder
- Green Screen by DoInk
- iMovie
- Glogster

iPad Apps: (Free at the Apple store - at the time of this listing)

- Holy Bible (Lifechurch.tv)
- iMemorize
- Quakefeed
- Doceri
- Pic Collage
- Kahoot
- Skitch
- MyVolcano

- E-clicker Audience
- Book Press
- Prezi
- PiZap
- Popplet Lite
- Canva
- Shadow Puppet
- Google Apps: Drive, Sheets, Docs and Slides
- Sock Puppets (The \$3.99 version is optional, but recommended by students)
- Any dictionary app (we recommend Dictionary.com)
- Journal Jar (This app is not found via the Apple store. From the iPad, go to the internet browser and enter the follow link : <http://exclusivetutors.com/apps/journaljar/>
Click on “Get the App” at the bottom of the screen or “Save to Home Screen”.

Optional Apps

- Calculator, NASA Visualization Explorer (Also known as NASA Viz), EarthNOW

Textbook Apps

- Please see the textbook instructions on the MVCS website for more details.

**Problems loading any of the apps, please visit the Help Desk on the first day of school. Additional free apps may be required throughout the year. Parents will be notified via email when such requests occur. Teachers will always try to find free apps whenever possible.*

Revised 5/31/16