

MONTE VISTA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL 8th Grade Language Arts Mr. Townsend, Instructor Course Syllabus

Educators: Kenneth Townsend **Classroom/ Office Location:** M-10 **Email:** kennethtownsend@mvc.s.org **Office Hours:** 7:30 - 8:00; 3:20 - 3:45

Course Description:

This PBL and Common Core aligned course will focus on literature and writing pertaining to academic rigor found within the eighth grade. Essentially, this course is an exploration of English through a variety of PBL units. This course will allow focus on vocabulary building, reading literature, and formulating analytical and persuasive responses to literature. Special attention will be placed upon research, using technology, writing, in both individual and group settings and various projects.

Curricular Mapping

Curricular Mapping: From a language arts perspective, this course continues to build upon prior learning. Specifically, this course will focus on vocabulary building, studying grammar through writing, reading literature, and writing persuasive essays. This course will use a variety of esteemed works of literature in lieu of a traditional textbook. Vocabulary and grammar will be integrated into each lesson. The Common Core standards for 8th grade language arts will be adhered to throughout the year for each unit.

Course Objectives:

After completing this course, students will be able to demonstrate proficiency within the 5 C's of 21st century learning. Specifically, creativity will be demonstrated through elaborate projects and writing, communication will be demonstrated through oral presentations and written discourse, collaboration will be demonstrated through effective teamwork, critical thinking will be demonstrated by solving real world issues, and caring will be demonstrated through daily interactions throughout class.

Students will become global publishers, excellent researchers, proficient and creative writers, technologically affluent, and global citizens.

Students will maintain their own blogs and/or websites; communicating their thoughts to a global audience. Additionally, students will be taught how to conduct detailed research while

determining credible sources, and deciphering information to create personalized essential questions and theses. Moreover, students will write research papers and essays at the end of each three week unit. Creative writing will be incorporated in a variety of ways into each quarter. Technologically speaking, students will have the opportunity to explore a variety of applications; using new tools in exciting ways.

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. Demonstrate comfort using and adapting to new technologies and operating computing hardware and software.
- c. Demonstrate responsible **digital citizenship**, in particular with respect to safety, ownership rights, collaboration, publication, privacy, security and digital footprints.
- d. Demonstrate competence in transmitting digital data without the use of paper.
- e. Demonstrate competence in producing digital products, such as but not limited to notes, essays, projects, and presentations.
- f. Demonstrate on-line research competence to find answers and solve problems in real time scenarios

Grading:

Assessments = 55% Assignments = 45%

Course Outline:

* This section will focus on the primary literature of each three week unit. The literature will drive the PBL unit for each Common Core aligned unit.

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.

App List:

Pages

Notability

Keynote

iMovie

PicCollage