

I am delighted to be returning to the Junior High this year. I am anxious to get back to class and to working with your students. Below is a summary of what I am planning to do with each of my classes this year. It is tentative, but my hope is that it will give you an idea of what we will be studying and the pace we will be moving.

I am always happy to talk with parents. If you have questions or concerns, the best way to reach me is via school email at [cpolonski@stbernardine.org](mailto:cpolonski@stbernardine.org).

I look forward to a great 2011-2012 school year.

Claire Polonski

## **7th Grade Vocabulary and Literature**

### **Vocabulary**

Textbook: Sadlier-Oxford **Vocabulary Workshop**

Each unit consists of 20 words used in a variety of exercises over 6 pages. Each unit will be introduced on Monday. The class will spend a short time on the exercises with the balance to be completed for homework due on Thursday. The scores of selected pages will be recorded weekly. A unit test will be given every Friday, unless otherwise specified. Unit tests will be double weighted. Cumulative exercises will be completed after Units 3, 6, 9, 12, and 15. There will be no new unit or test on these weeks. Cumulative exercises will be graded. Vocabulary will be suspended when the class is studying a novel in Literature.

### **Literature**

Textbook: **Pearson Literature**

Core Literature

#### **The Giver**

#### **Drums, Girls and Dangerous Pie**

The textbook consists of 6 units. We will be reading selections in Units 1 “Fiction and Nonfiction”, Unit 2 “Short Stories”, Unit 4 “Poetry” and Unit 5 “Drama”.

Study will include reading, vocabulary analysis, worksheets, and independent writing. Each unit will take about 12 classes to complete. A test including objective and short answer essays will be given on each story. A writing assignment will be completed at the end of the units.

The class will also be reading 2 core literature books. Students will be asked to purchase their own copy so they will be able to highlight and annotate the novel. I plan to order a set and collect the money so no need to go out and buy copies now.

### **Assignments and other requirements**

1. Independent reading will be assigned for homework as time requires.
2. All reading assignments will include written work which will be checked.

### **Grading**

1. All homework counts.
2. Tests and projects will be double weighted.
3. Grading will be on a point basis.

### **Extra Credit Policy**

Extra credit will be offered to the entire class from time to time throughout the year. Students should do it when it is offered. Under no circumstances will I offer extra credit to only one student.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade World Studies**

### **Textbooks**

Medieval Times to Today

Africa: Geography, History, Culture

Latin America: Geography, History, Culture

### **Tentative timeframe**

September	Medieval Times	Map Master
September-October	Medieval Times	Chapters 1&2
November-December	Africa	Chapters 1-7 power point on country
	Christmas Break	
January-February	Medieval Times	Chapter 3
	Latin America	Chapters 1-7 group project on cultures
March-April	Medieval Times	Chapters 4-6
	Spring Break	
May-June	Medieval Times	Chapters 7-8 medieval lunch

The class will also use the news magazine, Junior Scholastic to cover current events.

### **Assignments and other requirements**

1. Independent reading and outlines will be assigned for homework.
2. Short quizzes will be given after the completion of each segment of the chapters.
3. Tests will be given at the end of each chapter, unless otherwise specified.
4. Tests will include objective and essay questions. Essay questions will be given out ahead of time. Essay preparation will be turned in as part of the test.
5. We will do at least 1 group project, 1 research paper and a Powerpoint presentation.

## **Grading**

1. All homework counts.
2. Tests and projects will be double weighted.
3. Grading will be on a point basis.

## **Extra Credit Policy**

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## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade World Studies**

### **Textbooks**

The Ancient World

Asia and the Pacific: Geography, History, Culture

### **Tentative timeframe**

September	Ancient World	Map Master
September-December	Ancient World	Chapters 2-4 project on ancient Egypt
	Christmas Break	
January	Ancient World	Chapter 5
February-April	Asia & the Pacific	Chapters 1-9 country report & presentation
	Spring Break	
May-June	Ancient World	Chapter 6-7 Getty Villa field trip toga lunch

The class will also use the news magazine, Junior Scholastic, to cover current events.

### **Assignments and other requirements**

1. Independent reading and outlines will be assigned for homework.
2. All reading assignments will include written work which will be checked.
3. Short quizzes will be given after the completion of each segment of the chapters.
4. Tests will be given at the end of each chapter, unless otherwise specified.
5. Tests will include objective and essay questions. Essay questions will be given out ahead of time. Essay preparation will be turned in as part of the test.

## **Grading**

1. All homework counts.
2. Tests and projects will be double weighted.
3. Grading will be on a point basis.

### **Extra Credit Policy**

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## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade American History**

### **Textbook**

America, History of Our Nation

### **Tentative timeframe and topics to be covered this year**

September - October

Maps and U.S. Geography

Chapter 1 American Roots                      gazette project

Chapter 2 American Revolution

October – December

Chapter 3 History of the Constitution

Constitution Hndbk The Constitution                      debates

Chapter 4 Structure of Govt.

January – February

Chapter 5 Thomas Jefferson                      group project on modern US

Chapter 6 Andrew Jackson

February

Chapter 9 Westward Expansion

March – May

Chapter 7, 10-12 Civil War                      debates

book report

May – June

Chapter 13-14 Growth of U.S.

The class also uses the news magazine, Scholastic Junior, to cover current events and practice map skills.

### **Assignments and other requirements**

1. Independent reading and outlines will be assigned for homework.
2. Each reading assignment will include a worksheet to be returned the following class unless otherwise specified. All worksheets will be graded based on effort and completeness.
3. Tests will be given at the end of each chapter or unit. They will include both objective and essay questions. Essay questions will be given to you ahead of time. Essay preparation will be turned in as part of the test.

### **Grading**

1. All homework will be graded unless otherwise specified.
2. Tests and projects will be double graded.
3. Grading will be on a point basis.

### **Extra Credit Policy**

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## **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math**

### **Textbook**

Progress in Mathematics

### **Tentative Timeframe**

September	5 <sup>th</sup> grade skill review ITBS	
September-October	Chapters 1-2	Basic Operations
October- December	Chapters 3-4	Decimal Operations
January-February	Chapters 9-10	Geometry and metric measurement
February-March	Chapters 5-7	Fraction Operations
April	Chapter 13	Integers
May-June	Chapters 11-12	Ration, proportion and percent

### **Assignments and other requirements**

1. Homework will be assigned nightly.
2. Short quizzes will be given on Thursday cover concepts covered the previous week.
3. Graded review pages and a chapter test will be given at the end of every chapter.
4. Some projects may be assigned, if time allows.

### **Grading**

1. Homework will be collected regularly for grading. It will be worth 5 points based on neatness and completeness only.
2. Quizzes and tests will be double weighted.
3. Grading will be on a point basis.

### **Extra Credit Policy**

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