

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! I am also pleased to meet a new group of 5th graders for social studies.

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.

I look forward to a great 2009-2010 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. 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: **Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes**

The Giver

Monkey Island

The textbook consists of 10 units. We will be studying 2 selections from each unit. Study will include literary analysis, vocabulary analysis, and independent writing. Each selection will take about 5 classes to complete. A test including objective questions and short answer essays will be given on each story.

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

Assignments and other requirements

1. Independent reading will be assigned for homework.
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.

7th 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
	Christmas Break	
January-February	Medieval Times	Chapter 3
	Latin America	Chapters 1-7
March-April	Medieval Times	Chapters 4&5
	Spring Break	
April-June	Medieval Times	Chapters 6-8 tentative field trip to LACMA

The class will also use the news magazine, Scholastic Junior, 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 and 1 research paper.

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.

6th Grade World Studies

Textbooks

The Ancient World

Asia and the Pacific: Geography, History, Culture

Europe and Russia: 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 and presentation
	Spring Break	
April-May	Ancient World	Chapter 6-7 toga party, Getty Villa field trip
May-June	Europe and Russia	Chapters 1-5

The class will also use the news magazine, Scholastic Junior, 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

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.

5th Grade American History

Textbook

A New Nation

The textbook also has an accompanying workbook which we will use in class and as homework.

Tentative Timeframe

September	geography concepts immigration	Chapters 1 & 19	
October-November	Native Americans	Chapter 3	bulletin board report
November-December	explorers	Chapters 4 & 5	Captain's Log
	Christmas Break		
January-February	colonial America	Chapters 6-9	book report milk carton models Colonial Day
March	Revolutionary War Spring Break	Chapters 12 & 13	
April	Constitution	Chapter 14	state report & float
May-June	westward expansion	Chapter 15-17	

The class will not necessarily study every lesson in the chapters listed. There will be a variety of outside materials introduced in each unit.

Assignments and other requirements

1. Workbook pages will frequently be assigned for homework. Their purpose is to review reading done in class. Please insist your child bring the text home to complete workbook pages.
2. Tests will be given at the end of each unit unless otherwise specified. The class will be give a minimum of 1 week notice before a test and usually more.
3. Tests will include objective and essay questions. Essay questions will be handed out in advance.
4. Projects are shown in timeframe above.

Grading

1. Some homework will be graded and included as part of the report card grade.
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.

8th Grade American History

Tentative timeframe and topics to be covered this year

September - October

Maps and U.S. Geography

Chapter 4 Colonial America

Chapter 5-6 American Revolution

October - December

Chapter 7-9 Structure of Government and the Constitution

January – February

Chapter 10 Jefferson and the Louisiana Purchase

Chapter 11 – 13 Westward Expansion

February – April

Chapter 14, 16-18 Civil War tentative LACMA field trip

April – June

Chap 23 – 24 Becoming a World Power & WWI

Chap 25 The Roaring '20s

Chap 26 – 27 The Great Depression & WWII

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.
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.
4. We will do 3 group projects and 1 research paper.

Grading

1. All homework will be graded unless otherwise specified. Tests and projects will be double graded.
2. 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.

