

Language Arts & Social Studies

7th Grade Theme

–“Be the Change that you want to see.”

~ Mahatma Gandhi

Daily Schedule

- Monday: reading & writing workshop integration
- Tuesday: word study/book club/reading & writing workshop integration
- Wednesday: social studies & language arts integration stations
- Thursday: social studies & language arts integration stations
- Friday: language arts & social studies projects

Website

–Please visit our website to view our ongoing studies, homework and awesome links that integrate with our curriculum.

<http://sites.google.com/site/spartanssla/>

Homework Tip

On Tuesdays, take a moment to sit with your child to go over his/her planner looking at the week ahead. Help your child break down homework tasks into smaller, more manageable chunks. Provide a regularly scheduled time to establish routines and help them think proactively about what needs to be accomplished.



Language Arts

Overview: The language arts curriculum in seventh grade builds upon the foundations established in sixth grade. Activities will foster opportunities to enhance the community of readers, writers, listeners, and speakers. The curriculum is woven into the study of Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Australia. Students will use skills taught in language arts to comprehend, explore, respond, reflect, and interact in many ways with the study of these lands and cultures. Expressive, informational, argumentative, literary, and critical modes of text and communication are emphasized throughout the

year. Classroom lessons will build upon a “toolkit” of essential knowledge, processes, and strategies used within the discipline.

Essential Questions Explored in Language Arts:

- How can I impact CHANGE through reading/ writing/ listening/speaking?
- What power do words have?
- In what ways have I changed/want to change as a reader/writer?
- What is revealed about a culture through the literature of the culture?
- How can I contribute to a community of readers/

writers/listeners/speakers?

- What does reading like a writer reveal?

- How does background knowledge shape my comprehension of text?
- How can I interact with what I read to make meaning?
- What changes/stays the same when reading/writing different genre?
- How can I learn to be a better reader/writer from other readers/writers?
- What can I add to my “toolkit” to enhance my literacy?

Social Studies

Overview: In seventh grade your student will be examining Africa, Middle East, Asia and Australia in social studies. This year-long study is sequenced geographically starting with Africa and concluding with Australia. This class will explore issues relevant to history, geography, economics, government and incorporate current events.

Essential Questions Explored in Unit Studies:

Memberships in groups

- How and why do people come together?

- My role, my responsibility, what do I want to do differently?

Response to the Aesthetics

- How is culture reflected in the arts?
- In what ways do I express myself artistically?

A Sense of Time and Space

- What do I know about the past that helps me understand the present and anticipate the future?
- As I learn about the past what can I do to help change the future?

Living with Purpose

- What is my role and responsibility in this world?
- How am I going to find purpose in my life?
- How does serving others give meaning to our lives?



Homework

-Assigned each Tuesday, due the following Tuesday

-To help students manage time, organization, responsibilities, and become successful learners we provide a way for students who do not complete homework on time to accomplish unfinished work at school. Students will miss their explore elective on Wednesday if homework is not completed by the due date.

-Parents, please know that if your student is missing a homework assignment, the top left margin of your student's agenda will have the class and assignment listed.

- We encourage students to be self-motivated learners and we recognize their ability to become more independent with school work however, we also ask parents set up a system at home with your child to help him/her accomplish these goals effectively. By checking the agenda, assignments, homework and discussing daily events at school, we can help ensure that your child is gaining independence, confidence and feeling successful. If you are having difficulty with this, please talk with your child's teachers and/or advisor to help work out a plan that fits your child's needs.

More on Language Arts

Homework: Students are expected to read independently each night. Reader's response will provide opportunities to build on the community of readers. Literature circle selections will most often reflect the social studies content or theme study for the year. Students will closely monitor targeted elements of the literature circle selections they read. Word study, literature circles, independent reading, and reader's

response are regular homework assignments. Homework is posted on our website.

Word Study: The word study curriculum is centered on the student and their personal development of strategic spelling and vocabulary strategies. An essential list of words will be individualized by the student's personal word

collection list and teacher recommended words. Students will have a composition notebook just for word study. All word study work should be completed within this notebook.



Differentiation

We have our classroom activities and organization set up to provide differentiation in a variety of ways. Here are some things we do to make learning accessible and appropriately challenging for our students:

Classroom stations/centers

- Different learning styles
- Open-ended activities that encourage students to dig deeper
- Modifications as needed

Individual conferencing

- On the spot with students

- Time to push thinking beyond
- Provide help one-on-one

Individualized Learning

- Personal word study program
- Different modalities within activities
- Reader's responses
- Metacognitive thinking processes

Choices:

- Allows us to meet student interests and learning preferences

Book Clubs

- Students learned to identify targets to zoom into aspects

of the story and help with conversations about books
-Targets are going to be used to differentiate student "noticings" within a text this year

General

- Extra adults in room to help/or provide conversations that encourage deeper thinking
- Extra adults to pull small groups to aid understanding of material

Special Support Needed in Social Studies

In order to help create a thriving social studies curriculum for 7th grade, we will need lots of help from parents and community members.

Please let Mrs. Porter know if you are interested in helping with the following tasks:

- Research field trips for social studies (our studies this year

are Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Australia)

- Help coordinate speakers for our studies where speakers can come speak with the kids about different aspects of our studies (i.e. We have an archeologist speaker coming on 09.26 to discuss archeology and connect that to our studies as we are viewing the world as archeologists

this year.)

- Help provide Davidson College connections with our social studies content (teachers, students, etc.)

- Help coordinate cultural pieces for our studies (i.e. we are in need of African musicians and dancers for our culmination of Africa, etc.)