

Be Safe. Be Accountable. Be Respectful. Be Kind

1st Trimester COURSE DESCRIPTION: English Language Arts

## **Trimester 1 - The Power to Change**

### **Context**

It has been said that the only constant in life is change. In this unit, students consider this idea by looking at change and growth as a regular part of human nature. From studying characters in a novel and engaging in collaborative discussions to examining real-life figures in literary nonfiction and conducting research, students analyze the power that internal and external forces have on an individual's life, including the relationship between animals and humans. Through these varied experiences, students learn to write an explanatory response that conveys their analysis of a novel and write an expository essay on their interpretations of and conclusions on how animals can positively change the life of a human.

### **Instructional Sequence**

The first half of the unit begins by engaging students in analysis of internal and external forces that cause a character and themselves to change. Students apply this conceptual understanding of the relationship between forces and change to reading a novel with multiple characters and conflicts. Students begin the novel study using a double-entry journal to practice recording textual evidence to support analysis about character, plot and subplot, and setting. As they continue reading the novel, students prepare for a Literature Circle discussion by practicing the skills of questioning the text, examining how language impacts meaning, summarizing, and connecting. At the end of the novel, students collaboratively discuss their ideas from their extended close reading and analysis of the novel, which prepares them to write an expository response for Embedded Assessment.

\*Syllabus will be updated prior to the beginning of each new unit.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION: Social Science (Studies)

6th grade Ancient Civilizations focuses on the time period from the Stone Ages and early cultures to the ancient civilization of Rome. Our studies will include the Stone Age cultures, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Kush, India, China, the Hebrews, Ancient Greece and Rome. The students will learn about the geography, religion, achievements, political structure, economy, and social structure of each. In addition, the students will identify patterns, discuss ethical issues, consider varying points of view, identify change over time, and be able to make generalizations based on material consumed. Through a variety of interactive activities, students will develop critical thinking and problem solving skills.

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

English – SpringBoard English Language Arts Grade 6 California Edition 2017©  
Social Studies- World History, Ancient Civilizations: Holt / The Ancient World – Content Area Reader

## CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

Be...

Safe:

- A. Walk at all times
- B. Use the classroom tools appropriately
- C. Follow school wide emergency procedures

Accountable:

- A. Come prepared with all needed supplies
- B. Come prepared with homework completed
- C. Use technology to aid your academics with teacher approval

Respectful:

- A. Speak politely to staff and fellow students
- B. Listen politely to staff and fellow students
- C. Observe specific classroom rules

Kind:

- A. Help and encourage others

## CLASSROOM POLICIES:

### I. Attendance:

Attendance is very important to your grade. The school policy is located in your student planner. The policy in obtaining and turning in make-up work is as follows:

A. Work assigned PRIOR to an absence needs to be turned in the day you return. For example, if I assign homework on Tuesday and you are absent on Wednesday, you need to turn in the homework on Thursday, or the first day you return to school. On extended assignments, if a student is absent on the due date, absences do not equal an extension.

B. If I give out an assignment on Tuesday while you are absent, you must obtain that assignment the day you return to class, either before or after class or during another appropriate time. It is your responsibility to obtain make-up assignments, not mine. You have the same number of days you were absent to complete make-up work.

C. Students are to be in the door (completely) as the bell begins to ring. I allow two tardies for the course. At the third tardy, the student will be given an after-school teacher detention. Each additional tardy will also result in a detention and can eventually lead to suspension.

### II. SUPPLIES

We want you to be the BEST student possible! That success starts with supplies that will make your school year start right! The following lists of supplies are what we would like each student to have for our 6<sup>th</sup> grade English classes to have on the first day! AVID is offering a pre-made binder for \$20 that includes most, but not all of the supplies.

#### **Student Materials**

- Binder at least 2" – 3"
- Planner (\$6.00)
- 5 dividers (not 8, FIVE!)
- Pencil pouch (not needed if pouch is part of binder)
- **GEL** highlighters (other highlighters will bleed through our new workbooks)
- Pencils (mechanical pencils preferred)
- Eraser
- Colored pencils
- Glue stick
- Binder paper
- One **COMPOSITION** notebook (Mead or Staples) **MUST BE THREADED** not glued!
- 2 Book covers for school-issued textbooks (Science & Social Studies)

If you are interested in donating items to our classroom we have created a classroom wish list. Any donations are GREATLY appreciated.

### **Classroom Wish list**

- Kleenex
- Composition Notebooks
- Colored pencils
- Glue sticks
- **GEL** Highlighters
- Erasers
- Ziplock Bags
- Post it Notes

We look forward to a terrific year! Have fun tonight and we'll see you Thursday!

### **III. GRADING POLICY**

The Roseville City School District (RCSD) values both academic progress and learning behaviors. We want to make sure students, parents, and teachers have a clear understanding of where students are in relation to learning the standards in every subject, as well as how students are doing in regards to important learning behaviors.

Academic grades and academic behaviors will be reported separately. Academic grades will be based on 100% summative scores. Academic behavior will not count against the academic grade and will now be called learning behaviors.

Students will be graded on three areas for Learning Behaviors: Engagment, Utilized Feedback and Resources, and Work Completion. Students will receive scores of Rarely (R) , Somtimes (S), Consistently (C) . This will be reported at progress report time and at the end of each trimester.

### **IV. ACADEMIC HONESTY:**

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as your own. This can take a number of forms:

- A. Copying another student's work (i.e. study questions, homework, test answers, etc).
- B. Using another student's essay from another class as your own.
- C. Copying all, or portions of, an essay from an internet source or text and putting your name on it.
- D. Failure to cite any sources in MLA.

Any student who turns in work that has been copied from ANY existing source, will be given a zero for that assignment. Furthermore, any student who allows another student

to copy will be issued a zero for that assignment as well. Further incidents of plagiarism by the same student(s) will result in a zero credit for the assignment and a referral to an administrator.