

**7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Humanities**  
**Ms. Ann Bauer**  
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**Disclosure Statement – Signature Required**

Dear Student, Parent, Family, and Friend,

Welcome to an exciting year at the Salt Lake Arts Academy! This document has been designed to prepare students for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Humanities for the 2011 - 2012 school year. Adjustments may/will occur based upon opportunities that arise during the school year such as field trips, guest presentations, and school-wide projects.

**Course Content**

This year the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will focus on American history from early colonization to the eve of World War I. Particular focus will be on the personal, cultural, physical, ideological, and political issues faced by immigrants and indigenous peoples during this time period. Students will have a foundation in the school's theme, "Making Connections," while learning the subject material set forth in the Utah State Core objectives for Language Arts, Early-American to 19th Century American History, Utah State History, Geography, and the Arts.

**General Coursework**

*Language Arts*

1. Reading and Literature

- At least 15 minutes a day of in-class silent reading -- student's choice (within reason)
- Required reading and study of the following literary works:

Novels: *My Antonia*, *Huckleberry Finn*.

Short stories: "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow"; "The Purloined Letter"; "Dr. Heidegger's Experiment"; "The Occurrence at Owl Creek Bridge."

Poetry: poems by Longfellow, Poe, Emerson, Whitman, James Whitcomb Riley, Robert Service, Emily Dickenson, Edgar Lee Masters, and Robert Frost.

Drama: *The Crucible*.

Selections: Excerpts from various other literary works.

- Introduction to literary analysis including examination of literary genres (drama, novel, short story, poetry), literary elements (plot, theme, characterization, etc.), and figurative language (simile, metaphor, alliteration, etc.).

## 2. Writing

- Three to four hours per week of in-class writing workshop
- Required monthly compositions
- Emphasis on the composition of five-paragraph and longer narrative, persuasive, and expository pieces
- Instruction on picking and narrowing topics, outlining, writing strong paragraphs, and writing introductions and conclusions
- Introduction to the process of writing a research paper
- Focus on improving student performance in all six primary writing traits (sentence fluency, organization, ideas, word choice, voice/tone, and conventions)

## 3. Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics

- The eight parts of speech
- Verb forms and tenses
- Subject-verb agreement
- Possessives
- Prepositional Phrases
- Coordinating conjunctions
- Gerunds, participles, and infinitives
- Sentence structure (independent and dependent clauses; simple, compound, and complex sentences).
- Study of common English idioms
- Study of commonly misused words
- Capitalization and punctuation

## 4. Vocabulary

- Weekly vocabulary assignments and quizzes
- In-depth study of English word roots, prefixes, and suffixes

## 5. Presentations

- Oral book reports
- Poetry Memorization

## *History*

In examining the history of the United States, students will be connecting events, people, movement of ideas, and exchange of cultures from colonial North American through WWI. Students will be expected, by the end of the year, to understand

1. How the past influences the present
2. The relationship between geography and culture
3. How the United States developed into the political nation it is today
4. How "Americans" have dealt with cultural, religious, and political differences over the centuries

### Scope and Sequence

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Aug. - Sept.	Unit 1: North American Colonization Unit 2: The American Revolution
October	Unit 3: The U.S. Constitution
November	Unit 4: Lewis and Clark; Westward Expansion
December	Westward Expansion cont'd.
January	Unit 5: Utah history
February	Unit 6: The Civil War
March	Unit 7: Reconstruction; The Indian Wars; The Closing of the West
April Urbanization	Unit 8: Industrialization; Immigration;
May	Unit 9: Progressivism

### *Geography*

Students will be exposed to geographic terms and understanding. They are expected to know countries of Europe and the Americas, the 50 states of the U.S., and major North American geographical features. The majority of their understanding will come from The Five Themes of Geography, as established by the Utah State Core.

### *Art/ Performance Projects*

- Constitutional Treasure Hunt
- Mock Constitutional Convention
- Pioneer Day (Dutch Oven Cooking, handcart pushing)
- Wild West Day
- Invention Fair

### **Supplies**

1. One three-ring binder
2. Three ring binder dividers
3. One-subject composition book
4. Loose-leaf paper, college ruled (three hole punched, non-spiraled)
5. #2 pencils, ball-point pens & pink eraser
6. One pouch to hold writing supplies (preferably one that can be stored inside a three-ring binder).

### **Policies**

Student Handbook Policies apply to all students at all times. Note particularly the dress code and cellphone policy as these will be strictly enforced in my classroom.

Tardies and Absences: Tardies will be tracked and, if unexcused, will have a negative impact on the student's Cooperation, Attitude, and Behavior (CAB) grade. If a student needs to be absent for a non-emergency appointment or a family vacation, it is the *student's responsibility* to gather his or her homework assignments *before* leaving. In emergency or unplanned situations, the student is responsible for finding out from me what make-up work needs to be completed.

Late work will be accepted up to two weeks past the due date. Any assignments not completed within two weeks after the original due date will be marked as zero. Late work will not receive full credit. Instead, only partial credit may be earned for late assignments and in no case will a student receive above a '3' on any work turned in after the due date. No late work will be accepted during the last week of the term grading period.

Grades in this class are based upon the grading rubric established by Salt Lake Arts Academy. It is important to note that under the school's grading rubric, a grade of '5' is reserved for exceptional work and for those students whose performance truly goes above and beyond academic expectations.

Electronics: Cell phones, Ipods, headphones of any kind, gameboys, and other electronic toys are **not allowed during school hours**. All electronic devices and toys are to be turned off and stored in your locker **during school hours**. I will confiscate any electronic item I

find in my classroom during school hours and students and/or parents will have to retrieve it from the main office.

Miscellaneous Classroom Rules: Students may not chew gum during class. Hats and obvious winter outerwear are not to be worn in my classroom. Please be prepared for class by bringing #2 pencils as I do not allow mechanical pencils in my class. No homework torn from a spiral notebook will be accepted. Homework may only be turned in on loose-leaf paper.

Contact and General Information: I will be sending out regular email updates on coursework and due dates. If you have any questions about your student or the class, please do not hesitate to contact me -- ideally, via email. Unless it is an emergency, please allow me 48 hours to respond to your email/s. Grades will be posted online at the end of each week.

### **Accommodations**

Based upon their needs, students with 504s, IEPs, or any other special needs will receive all accommodations they are entitled to. All students are expected to work as hard as they can, to the best of their abilities... but enjoy it.

Please sign below that you have read and understand this disclosure document.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Legal Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
SLArts Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date