

“Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.” –Frederick Douglass

Academic Enrichment
Mr. Avroch
Grades 6
Course Syllabus

Course Description:

Academic Enrichment is a class period provided for extending and supporting the Language Arts curriculum. Students will receive support or enrichment based on targeted needs in reading and writing. According to one of the leading Language Arts authors, Kelly Gallagher, there are nine specific reasons why students should read:

- Reading is rewarding.
- Reading builds a mature vocabulary.
- Reading makes you a better writer.
- Reading is hard, and “hard” is necessary.
- Reading makes you smarter.
- Reading prepares you for the world of work.
- Reading well is financially rewarding.
- Reading opens doors to college and beyond.
- Reading arms you against oppression.

Our goal is to have students read *at LEAST* a million words a year—that’s why we want to provide 30 minutes a day of reading time. If they read 30 minutes a day, they will read a million words a year!

Scope and Sequence:

Students will be given adequate time in class to read a variety of high interest fiction and non-fiction.

Students will...

- Read for 30 minutes per day.
- Keep a reading log.
- Learn and use reading strategies according to purposes for reading and the nature of the text.
- Make connections to self, other texts and the world.
- Analyze author’s intent and cite evidence in the text that supports their ideas.
- Formulate literal, inferential, and interpretive questions that lead to interpretation of the text.
- Analyze meaning of words and phrases in context.
- Learn tools for development of academic vocabulary.
- Determine how various literary devices affect the meaning of the text.

- Analyze texts by considering how social, cultural, and historical contexts contribute to the meaning.

In addition, students will write both formally and informally.

Students will...

- Write frequent, informal responses to literature using interpretive, analytical and evaluation skills.
- Share their writing with partners and response groups who recommend revisions.
- Publish and/or present final products in a myriad of ways.

Assessment:

Students will be assessed continually throughout the quarter both informally and formally. Informal assessments are given throughout the quarter to inform instruction. Examples of informal assessment may include the following: Reading inventories, reader response, and student self-evaluation. The informal assessments help the teacher set targets for mini-lessons and small-group instruction. Formal assessments will be given periodically to indicate student progress. Examples of formal assessments may include the following: Expository essay and compare/contrast essay.

Behavioral and Academic Expectations:

1. No interfering with the teaching and learning of others.
2. Respect personal space, rights and property of others.
3. Follow directions of all your teachers.
4. Come to class prepared with all supplies and homework complete.

Grading Policy

Silent Reading (focus, monitoring of strategies, and preparation): 30%

Journal reflections: 30%

Projects: 20%

Participation in class discussions: 20%

Office Hours (availability to support students):

Lunch

After School by Appointment

Teacher Contact Information:

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