

**Salt Lake Arts Academy**  
**Ms. Walsh**  
**Humanities**

**Overview**

Your humanities class includes social studies, language arts, and visual arts. Humanities are the critical examination of the diverse people, ideas, economies, social and political institutions, art, literature, and cultures both past and present in our world.

**Social Studies**

This year our focus will be the three R's **Renaissance, Reformation, and Revolution**. We will be covering the time periods of 1300's through 1790's. As with our school theme of "Pushing Past Barriers" our class will delve into the personal, cultural, physical, ideological, and political boundaries that existed during time period and the discoveries that were made there in.

**Scope and Sequences**

- Precursors to time period
- Renaissance
- Reformation
- Exploration
- Revolution
- Consequences

**Rough time estimates**

August through September  
October through December  
January through February  
March through April  
May  
June

**Language Arts**

Writing is a very important form of communication. This year your student will have high writing expectations. We will write in all genres. Rough, revised and final drafts will be expected. Editing will be stressed. You will see great growth in this area for your student. It is an exciting experience for them as they see themselves develop into writers.

**Reading**

Literature will cover all genres including but not limited to science fiction, historical fiction, non-fiction, fantasy, and primary sources. Our reading titles span 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade reading levels. Students will be assigned and encouraged to read books that will challenge them both academically and emotionally.

**5/6 readings September through October**

Freak the Mighty  
The Canterbury Tales  
Anthology Selections  
Fantasy selection of students' choice

**7/8 readings September through October**

The Outsiders  
Freak the Mighty—quick read  
The Canterbury Tales  
Anthology Selections  
Fantasy selection of students' choice

### **Night read/writes**

Both grades will be given night read/writes. These readings will enrich and prepare the students for class discussions. They will be given as needed. I will e-mail you when I send the first one out with specific information.

We will also be going to the library every other week.

### **Visual Arts**

The Arts are layered throughout our curriculum. Your child will have many opportunities to experience the arts. Visual arts will be both creative and structured. Rubrics will be developed by the students to help facilitate their growth and learning (a rubric is education lingo for a tool to measure). Instruction will include elements and principles of art as well as many creative strategies.

### **Health**

Mental, social and physical health will be a part of this year's curriculum. Activities and learning will be spread throughout the year.

### **Assignments:**

Students will have a variety of learning opportunities. Our curriculum is integrated and will include but is not limited to, note taking, research, projects, small group work, and class discussion. On a weekly basis students will be required to complete

- 5 hours reading: Reading log due Fridays – see attached reading list and sample reading log
- Vocabulary packet Due Thursdays
- Vocabulary quiz: Due Fridays
- Writing Assignment: Due Mondays, rough, revised and final drafts are expected. **All writing Genres and styles will be covered.**

### **P.R. Personal Renaissance**

This year I am putting more emphasis on individual accountability. Your student will be required to reflect and journal on his/her goals and progress throughout the year. These records will be organized here in class during the first few weeks of school. As the book is organized your student will be including you in the process and in the celebration of their personal growth. Look for more information to come on this exciting project.

7/8 grades will continue to build upon earlier skills and will be held to a high standard. They will be learning to evaluate and interpret ideas and demonstrate their thinking through writing. They will also understand the process of seeking and giving information, group discussions, written reports, and oral presentations. Reading and writing assignments will reflect these higher expectations.

Students need to come prepared for class with pencil, paper and binder for assignments. Students who miss class are responsible for obtaining missing notes, homework, or other information they may have missed. **Punctuality** and attendance are crucial to your child's success.

### **Grading:**

Grades will be weighted in the following manner

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| In class work, assignments, homework, participation, and projects | 80% |
| Test, Quizzes, Vocabulary   | 20% |

Salt Lake Arts Academy follows a numerical Academic and citizenship rubric ranging from 1-5. All in class work, assignments, homework, participation, and projects will follow the same grading rubric. The rubric is set in the following manner.

#### Academic Rubric

1= Incomplete homework, minimal classroom participation, poor quality work, poor test performance

3= Most homework in completed classroom participation is acceptable, quality of work is average, test performance is average, in general student does not go beyond the basic requirements.

5= Homework is completed and of high quality, excellent class work participation and work quality, strong test performance, student is showing progress and is stretching beyond his/her range of ability.

As a class, we will fill in the details so students have ownership in what a 1, 3, or 5 looks like. A completed rubric will be sent home after this time

**10% will be deducted from all late work up to 5 days. After 5 days late work will not be accepted and students will need to make arrangements with me concerning their incomplete assignments.**

#### Citizenship Rubric

1= Forgets/ loses materials or homework, doesn't listen to directions, bothers others, acts silly.

3= Comes prepared and ready to learn half of the time, teacher must redirect student from time to time, works effectively with others half the time, occasionally has trouble respecting others space and needs for learning.

5= Shows responsibility for materials and homework, demonstrates exemplary behavior with traveling/ working, actively stays involved while respecting others space, student is thoughtful and a willing participant.

#### Discipline:

This class will follow the Salt Lake Arts Academy disciplinary policies set forth in the student handbook. Most importantly the students will show respect, appreciation and safety towards their class, school, community, and peers.

#### Electronics:

Cell phones, MP3's, iPods, headphones of any kind, game boys, or other electronic toys are not allowed during class time. Students are allowed to bring such items to school but they must be turned off and put away during class time. Failure to do this will result in device being taken away and parents must retrieve them from the main office.

**Special Needs**

Students with special needs who require accommodation in one way or another shall be afforded every opportunity to obtain the assistance and help required for their success in the classroom. Please contact me at the earliest possible time to make arrangements for accommodating your students' needs.

**Contact and General information:**

I will be sending out regular email updates letting you know what is happening in the class, what assignments the students are working on and/or are due and any information needed. Contacting me is best done through e-mail. Unless correspondence is an emergency please allow me 48 hours to respond.

I am looking forward to an exciting year.

Jane Walsh

Student signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Please sign, date, and return with your student. An additional copy is provided on the school website under Walsh Humanities.