

5th and 6th Humanities Curriculum

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Humanities class includes language arts (reading and writing workshops) and social studies. Humanities includes all the things that make people interesting: ideas, cultures, arts, histories, music, literature, discoveries and many more. This year, the focus in Humanities will be the Renaissance, the Reformation and revolutions. We will look at people and events from approximately 1100 to about 1700. Since this was a time of great discovery, both global and individual, our school theme will be “The Power of One,” and we will be searching for each learner’s discoveries, challenges, and refinements.

Language Arts includes skills in these areas:

Reading	Comprehension
Speaking	Internet websites
Storytelling	Effective writing
Listening	
Following directions	Journals
Word study	Report writing
Research	Poetry
Genres	Handwriting:
print/cursive/calligraphy	
Connections	Drama
Conventions: capitalization/punctuation/grammar/format/spelling	

Students will be expected to be reading or writing during the language arts class times. Reading instruction and assessment will be included in independent reading, literature circles, partner reading and guided reading. Emphasis will be on independent reading and comprehension of text. Listening will be implemented daily through use of a read-aloud book. Students will be expected to read a variety of genres, with a focus on historical fiction and non-fiction, especially books that integrate with the study of the Renaissance, Reformation and Revolution. Writing will include creative writing, reports, letters, plays and poetry. Students will

be involved in revising, editing and rewriting. Speaking skills will be practiced by presenting current events, reciting poetry and participation in skits and plays.

The reading expectation for 5th and 6th grade students is 4 hours per week, with at least half of that being daily homework. A weekly reading record will be issued to help with tracking, and will be turned in as homework. A reading rubric will be used to create a weekly grade. Grading will be done on a rubric ranging from 1 to 5, with 5 meaning a student has gone beyond expectations.

SLAA believes in using community resources and so we will be visiting the Salt Lake Public Library approximately every two weeks. Students will be able to check out reading and research materials, and we will be learning library skills. If you live within Salt Lake County, your student needs to have a library card. If you live outside the County and aren't able to procure a card, please let me know and I will make arrangements so that your child is not left out.

Another way to help students obtain their own books is by ordering through Scholastic Book Clubs. Every four to six weeks, I will send home an order form for Scholastic Books. By ordering from these catalogues, you will be providing inexpensive, but good quality literature for your child to read. Orders also help to enlarge our classroom library. The more books that are ordered, the more books I can order for the classroom library at little or no cost.

Social Studies will include knowledge and understanding in the following areas:

Culture	Power and governments
Map skills	Global connections
Time and change	Science and arts
People and places	Current events
Groups and institutions	

Learning will take place through reading, discussions, conducting research, writing reports, involvement in hands-on activities, dramatizations, simulations, videos and games.

I have found several websites I would like to use with research. To facilitate sending these to students, I would like each student to have an **email account** that can be accessed in class.

Homework

Three types of homework will be assigned on a regular basis. Students are expected to **read** four hours each week. At least half of that will need to be done outside of school. A weekly reading record will be expected to be completed and turned in each week. A **vocabulary** packet will be distributed and due by the end of each week. Twice each week, students will be expected to **write** a piece called a “Nightwrite.” Each student will receive a notebook in which to write and take notes. Other homework will be assigned on a “needs” basis.

Arts

Music, visual art, dance and drama will be incorporated into all areas of our learning. Students will use visual arts to illustrate, as well as motivation for their writing. Students will observe paintings and other visual arts from the period being studied as a way to get a “feel” for life at that time. Dramatizations, videos and simulations will be used to develop deeper understanding of historical events.

Personal and Social Behavior

Classroom protocols:

Tribes philosophy is the foundation of my classroom management.

Tribes is a process

that creates a culture of safety and caring that maximizes learning and human development. The Tribes goal is to expand knowledge, skills, and a commitment to create a positive learning community within the classroom. Through a set of positive agreements:

- * **Attentive listening**
- * **No put downs**

* **Appreciations**

* **Mutual respect**

. . .a safe foundation is set for students to reach their academic, social and emotional potential. Kids learn better when they feel safe.

Students retain much more when they process learning immediately after the teaching takes place. In a Tribes classroom this takes place many times daily. Using current brain research, as well as research on resiliency and cooperative learning, students are empowered to gain the skills they need to meet the unknown challenges awaiting them in the future.

Classroom circles will be held several times each week. Circle provides time for students to verbalize their appreciations for one another and apologize for anything they take responsibility for that needs to be cleared up.

If students do not comply with these expectations, they will be referred to the office and the discipline procedures found in the Student Handbook will be effected.

Grading:

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

A Summary Rubric for Mastery of Concepts and Skills

- 5 Far surpasses the grade level expectations
- 4 Surpasses the grade level expectations
- 3 Demonstrates grade level expectations
- 2 Does not meet grade level expectations
- 1 Far below grade level expectations

What formerly was called Citizenship has been broken down into categories to more thoroughly explain a student's behavior and participation. Each student is given two grades. One grade is **CAB** and stands for cooperation, attitude and behavior. The other grade is **PEPR** which stands for participation, effort, preparation and risk-taking. Each of these grades is based on a 1 – 5 rubric.

After we get established, grades will be posted on SLAA's website. Your child will receive a password for access to his/her grades.

You should have received a copy of the **Policies and Procedures** regarding cellphones and other electronic devices. Basically, they do not belong at school.

Students need to come to Humanities class prepared with 2 books to read, 2 SHARPENED pencils, a Humanities three ring binder, and a nightwrite notebook (will receive in class).

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Donations of the following will be appreciated:

- Notebook paper, 8 1/2, **wide spaced**. It's nice to have some extra paper in the classroom.
- Glue sticks
- #2 pencils – to have on hand when a student forgets or loses theirs
- colored markers – all types, all colors
- Kleenex tissues
- 5 X 8 and 3 X 5 index cards, ruled and plain

Monetary contributions to the school with indication to Jewell's class will be used in the following ways:

- printer ink cartridges
- art materials for specific projects
- class sets of magazines
- newspapers
- other classroom resources to enhance the curriculum

After you have read the preceding information, please sign and return to me.

I have read and understand the disclosures for Ms. Jewell's classes

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Student signature

date

Parent signature

date

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