**Course Description:**

Humanities are a mash up of two distinct disciplines: Language Arts and Social Studies. The blending of these two subjects creates numerous opportunities for students to think critically, to design projects that help shape their learning, and to become academic readers, writers, speakers and listeners.

**Teacher Availability:**

I am normally available after-school from 2:45-3:30. The best way to reach me initially is through email. Once we have set-up a meeting time, I prefer to talk on the phone or face-to-face. Since I teach a leadership class as well, I tend to have dozens of voice mails from ongoing leadership projects.

**Behavior:**

I expect students will learn soft skills in school as well. My mantra as a teacher is be respectful, be driven, and be creative. My entire class revolves around this mantra and, in regards to behavior, what it means to be respectful to ensure that I can create the best citizens as they move through my class and our school.

For most behavioral problems, students and I will create some sort of plan. I tend to contact parents/guardians pretty early on. Here is an example of an email that students may write home:

A discussion of my behavior must include \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  For example, when I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I felt \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  I am fully aware that I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  Next time, I will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.  My teacher could help me by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Classroom Rules:**

1. Preparation is key.
2. Do. Your. Best. Always.
3. Take responsibility for yourself and your learning (i.e. Get caught up when absent).

\* Bathroom Passes – Students will receive five per semester for a grand total of 10 for the year.

**Helpful Sites:**

* ReadWorks - <https://www.readworks.org/>
* Blackboard - <https://newberg.parentlink.net/main/login>
* My Blog – <https://mrmclay.weebly.com>

**Growth Mindset:**

The sixth grade humanities team is committed to your student’s learning. We will have multiple opportunities for your student to attack skills that they might still be struggling with (Winston Churchill has a funny quote about ending a sentence with prepositions: This is the sort of English up with which I will not put). In short, encourage your student to take these opportunities to sharpen their skills. We will try to use a format that clearly shows how many opportunities that they will have, but please be patient. This is new for us and we have their best interests at heart.

That being said, reading is the only homework they will ever receive. A strong reader is a strong student. Please encourage them to read often and try to vary the type of books they read: comics, novels, manuals, nutritional facts, graphs, etc. And we will as well.

**Projects:**

As you can probably tell, we love projects. Most of everything that we do is project-based. Why, projects? They challenge students more than most assignments and they embed student buy-in. They also allow students multiple opportunities to work on a skill, since they must have their final product ready for submission.

September

* Socratic Seminar
* Philosophical Chairs
* Journal Writing (Empathy)

October

* Tiered Responses
* JOECAPS Poster mini-project
* Checking Sources
* Living History Project Starts

November

* Proposition and Support Responses
* Living History Project Research
* Living History Project Skit Rough Draft

December

* Living History Site Construction
* Living History Skit Final Draft
* Living History Night (**December 7th @ 6:30-8:00**)

January

* Design Star (a project with the city planners of Newberg)

February

* Two-voice Poems
* Shackleton Interview

March

* Literary Devices Journals on Percy Jackson
* Power of Myth Journals on Percy Jackson
* Character Analysis Interviews for Percy Jackson
* Soundtrack Project Starts

April

* Soundtrack Project Starts
* Scripted Interviews with Band on Songwriting
* Scripted Interviews with Graphic Designer on Album Design
* Scripted Interviews with Manager on Touring
* Scripted Interviews with Artist on Album Design

May

* Soundtrack Project Fake Interview
* Soundtrack Project Creation of OST for Percy Jackson
* Creation of OST Album Art
* Creation of Song for Minotaur Battle

June

* Genius Hour Support

**Due Dates:**

Students must turn in a project on its due date. We are attempting to teach real-world skills and due dates are essential. Projects are scaled with many check-ins to help ensure that students do not fall behind. Students will have one week to turn in missing projects and missing assignments. They will read as MIF (missing formative) or MIS (missing summative) in the grade book. After one week, the assignment will be counted as a1/4 on the proficiency scale.

**Proficiency:**

4 – Exemplary 3 – Meets 2- Nearly Meets 1 – Does Not Yet Meet