

**Mr. Kaplan's Syllabus 2007-2008**  
**Eighth Grade Language Arts and Social Studies**

**Language Arts Objectives**

The primary purpose of our Language Arts curriculum here at Sacajawea Middle School is to teach our students the necessary skills to become successful readers, writers, and communicators - based on the Essential Academic Learning Requirements for Washington State. Reading instruction focuses on vocabulary development, comprehension, fluency, literature appreciation, and effective reading strategies. Writing instruction focuses on language mechanics, grammar, spelling, and the writing process.

- 1) Students will use Reciprocal Teaching method to explore novels and informational text.
- 2) Students will study vocabulary each week to expand their spoken and written language.
- 3) Students will read silently each day in class to increase their reading interest and fluency.
- 4) Novels read in class will integrate with our U.S. History unit.
- 5) Students will learn strategies to help them successfully meet or exceed standard in the classroom, on district tests, and on state tests.

**United States History**

This is a survey course in which students will learn about the historical, geographic, cultural and economic development of the United States. Emphasis will be on the pre-discovery period through the Civil War and reconstruction. Topics are presented chronologically to acquaint students with major events and people that contributed to the founding and preserving of the American Nation.

Students are expected to develop a variety of skills and learning methods including reading, writing, map-making, inquiry skills, research projects, oral reports, and multimedia training and usage.

**Essential Questions**

How can we connect literature to the world?

What does America represent? What is the American Dream?

What is fairness? What is equality? Can there be too much of either?

Who rebels and why – and what happens?

## **Expectations**

1. Respect yourself and others
2. Be On Task
3. Readiness:
  - a) You are expected to arrive to class on time, seated in assigned seat, pencil already sharpened and working on DO NOW assignment.
  - b) Homework from previous day is out on your desk.
  
4. Participation:
  - a) Stay on task during work time
  - b) Make positive contributions to class discussion.
  - c) Bring your library book to class everyday

	Grading Scale	
Exceeding Standard	E+	100%
Meeting Standard	M+	88%
Approaching Standard	A+	78%
Beginning Standard	B+	68%
Referral	R	