



Pine Valley Middle School Course Description 2009-2010

Mrs. Moore, teacher

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Homework website: <http://pvms.schoolloop.com/>

Grades will be posted online at: <http://pvms.schoolloop.com/>

My prep period is from 2:00 – 2:45 p.m. -- please feel free to contact me with any concerns or insights.

ENGLISH 8 -- Major Course Description:

The English curriculum is a balanced program of reading, writing, speaking, listening, and critical thinking skills developed from the state's Standards. Grammar, spelling, and vocabulary are considered to be important components of the program. These skills are best developed when integrated with reading, writing, and history.

Reading:

The eighth grade curriculum is literature based. *Prentice Hall Literature* will be utilized at times in our study of plot, character, setting, theme, and conflict. In addition, the following novels will be read throughout the year.

The Pigman: Paul Zindel

The Outsiders: S.E. Hinton

The Tamarack Tree: Patricia Clapp

Students will also be reading within specific genres and recording mini-lessons and reflections in their **READING JOURNALS**.

Writing:

Using their **WRITING JOURNALS** in Writer's Workshop, as well as the *Prentice Hall Literature* textbook, students will learn the art of writing in various writing domains. These domains include:

Personal Essay

Poetry

Report of Information

(Friendly) Letter Writing

Cover (Business) Letter & Resume

Persuasive Essay

Compare and Contrast

Response to Literature

Grammar and Punctuation:

While the major emphasis in writing will be upon content and organization, it is also important that students learn and be accountable for grammar and punctuation. They will study the eight parts of speech, punctuation, capitalization, and sentence variation.

Spelling and Vocabulary:

Students will embark upon a program that offers mastery of commonly used words as well as challenge words. Vocabulary will be taken from the novels and studied as well as from prepared lists. Students will be presented with a Word of the Day or Words of the Week for which they will be accountable for using and spelling these words properly in their writing.

Speeches and Class participation:

Students will learn to write and deliver a speech and/or a poem and will have opportunities to give impromptu speeches as well as oral presentations during the school year. Students are expected to participate orally in class. They will be awarded Class Participation Points for sharing their Word of the Day sentences, reading their writing aloud, and other forms of oral participation. The points will be added and averaged.

U.S. HISTORY – Major Course Description:

The history curriculum in the eighth grade is to develop an in-depth knowledge of significant events, major happenings, and critical turning points in American history. To develop a greater understanding of our unique present in light of our historical past, we have incorporated into our curriculum the state Standards with particular emphasis on the areas of critical thinking and processing skills.

Content

- 1. Review of the Colonial Period**
- 2. Forming a New Nation**
 - a. War for Independence (Revolutionary War)
 - b. Early attempts at a central government
- 3. The Constitution and Government**
- 4. Westward Movement**
 - a. Age of Jefferson
 - b. War of 1812
 - c. Age of Jackson
 - d. Manifest Destiny
- 5. Civil War**
 - a. Slavery and abolitionism
 - b. Issue of states' rights
 - c. Steps leading to the War
 - d. The Blue vs. Grey
 - e. Reconstruction

6. Rise of Industrial America

- a. Railroads
- b. Corporations
- c. Inventions – Inventors
- d. Unionization
- e. Rise of political machines
- f. Immigration

Grading Policy:

Grading will be based on a point system. Homework, quizzes, tests, essays, and participation will be added together to formulate students' grades in both English and United States history. For percentages, please see student grades on schoolloop.

Please note:

Students who do not complete Spelling homework or who do not complete Word of the Day/Week sheets/work (or who score below 60% on the homework) are not eligible to take the accompanying test(s).

Computer Printouts and Progress Reports:

Grades can be accessed online through the Pine Valley Middle School website or through the schoolloop.com website. Students and their parent(s) will be sent a progress report for all grades of C- or below halfway through the quarter. Parents are strongly urged to check their child's grades on a weekly basis.

Binder Reminders:

Students will be expected to write down their assignments in their binder reminders on a daily basis. If there is no homework, they will write "no homework." Students and parents may also use the schoolloop website to monitor both student grades and assignments. Grades on schoolloop are updated weekly.

Discipline Policy:

I expect students to behave. All school and district regulations are to be followed. (see Student Handbook.) Each class member will follow the rules listed below:

- Respect the rights of others. No one shall behave in such a manner as to interrupt the ability of another to learn or teach. This also applies to substitute teachers who may take over the class.
- Respect property. Take care of your property, the property of others, and the property of the school.
- Be prompt to class. This means, "**Be in your seat when the bell rings.**" The teacher will handle the first three tardies. The first tardy is a warning. The second and third tardies require a trash pickup. School administrators will handle the fourth and any further tardies, and parents will be notified.

- **Bring all required materials to class.** Binder reminders are to be used on a daily basis. **English and U.S. history spiral binders** are to be used on a daily basis as well as **READING AND WRITING JOURNALS** and the **IMPORTANT PAPERS folder**.
- Complete all assignments and turn them in on time.
- Keep your hands and your feet to yourself.
- Refrain from chewing or eating anything unless given permission. A litter pick-up will be assigned to any student who is chewing gum.
- Do not toss or throw **anything**.
- Use appropriate language at all times, and never use put-downs.
- Any serious physical or verbal misbehavior will result in immediate removal from classroom to the principal or assistant principal's office, and parents will be notified.

Absence Policy:

When absent, students will be responsible for missed assignments. All assignments will be listed on the class assignment board and on schoolloop. Upon returning from their absence, students have 3-5 days to complete all work (depending on the length of the absence). It is the student's responsibility to get all materials and information missed.

Tests must be made up after school (beginning at 3:00 p.m.) on the Monday following the absence.

Materials contribution/reimbursement:

For those families who wish to reimburse me, I will collect a \$20.00 materials contribution from each student the first week of school. This contribution will cover my out-of-pocket costs for the following necessary materials: **future composition notebooks (READING & WRITING JOURNALS), an IMPORTANT PAPERS folder, yellow legal pads, two bare books (to be used in future projects), contributions towards classroom celebrations, and a copy of the novel "The Outsiders."** This money will pay for materials I would otherwise have to collect money for during the school year. **Thank you in advance 😊**

Necessary materials to be brought to class each day:

- A. Pens (blue or black) and/or pencils
- B. **RED PENS (at least three)** and highlighter pens.
- C. IMPORTANT PAPERS folder
- D. Standard loose-leaf lined paper
- E. **TWO spiral notebooks – MEAD FIVE STAR** (one for English – **one subject-** and one for U.S. history – **three subject**)
- F. **TWO composition notebooks** (READING AND WRITING JOURNALS)
- G. BINDER REMINDER
- H. Colored pencils (optional)

Heading format for work to be turned in:

Headings must be on the **right-hand side** of work to be turned in:

- a. Name: FIRST and LAST
- b. Date: 08-25-08
- c. CORE: 1/2 or 6/7

Saturday School:

As part of our intervention program for failing students, **students may attend Saturday School ONCE per quarter**. Students may make-up a maximum of **three (3)** missing assignments (excluding major projects).

Parents:

Please read the entire course description.

If you have read the course description and classroom discipline policies, **please have your student sign, you sign, and then return this agreement.**

Have your student put the other pages of this course description in their **IMPORTANT PAPERS folder** so that it is available for review as needed.

Dear Mrs. Moore,

We have read your course description and classroom discipline policies. It is our responsibility to monitor binder reminders and grades online on a weekly basis.

Student's name: _____

I will do my best: _____
(Student's signature)

We/I will help: _____
(Parents' signature)

Materials contribution/reimbursement:

I have attached the \$20.00 materials contribution (due the first week of school). This contribution will cover the costs of necessary materials and will contribute to future celebration costs. No other money will be collected from parents the rest of the school year.

_____ Yes, I have attached my check or cash to this agreement.

**** (Please make checks out to Pine Valley Middle School & note "MOORE CORE" at bottom of check)**