

8th Grade Humanities

Campus Middle School for Girls

Judy Nolen

The eighth grade humanities curriculum is based on presenting an overview of United States history, complemented by reading, writing, and literature chosen to enhance the students' understanding of and connection to the historical events being studied.

The text, Creating America (McDougall Littell), is used as a starting point, with frequent research assignments to supplement it. Fiction and nonfiction titles in the English curriculum are chosen to provide background and context for the various historical periods. Project based learning, with heavy emphasis on research, is central to the class.

Examples of units that may be covered include:

The Revolutionary Period

The Constitution

The Civil War

Reconstruction

Immigration, Westward Expansion, and the Gilded Age

World War I

The Great Depression

World War II

The Civil Rights Era

Reading and literature related to the history units :

Hamilton and Peggy (L.M. Elliott)

Hamilton lyrics

The Invention of Wings (Sue Monk Kidd)

“Declaration of Independence” and The Constitution

To Kill a Mockingbird (Harper Lee)

The Diary of Anne Frank (Anne Frank)

In addition to reading and literature that is directly connected to the history units, students will also study the following:

A Shakespeare Play (A Midsummer Night's Dream)

How to Eat a Poem

Selected poetry, short stories, and essays

In addition, the curriculum for humanities stresses:

Outside Reading

Development of the habit of reading for pleasure. Expectation is 20 minutes per day (100 minutes/week.)

Writing—The writing process, leading up to finished products, is central to the writing program. Students are encouraged to plan, reevaluate, and revise their writing through teacher conferences, self-evaluation, and peer editing. Specific types of writing include:

Frequent short writing assignments, usually done in class

Literary analysis—longer papers based on literature

Current events summaries

Research reports—often crossing over with history investigations and projects

Creative writing

Personal essays

Reading journals

Personal journals

Speaking

Frequent oral presentations, such as current events, book logs, and history investigations

Several longer, more formal presentations

Poetry readings

Vocabulary

Painless Vocabulary—one lesson per week

Freerice.com

Grammar and Spelling

Designed to meet individual and group needs

Media Literacy

Addressed through **weekly current events reports** and research projects