

English Department Update

Maple Avenue Middle School



Grade 6:

We are continuing our exploration of Alcatraz focusing on a planned prison escape by some inmates. We will be transitioning from reading about Alcatraz to writing about Alcatraz. We will be looking at pieces of evidence from the story and other sources to help shape our opinions about whether or not the 3 prisoners survived their attempted escape from Alcatraz. As we determine our stance on the topic, we will be identifying parts of persuasive writing. We will be learning how to write a good hook and claim (our opinion statement) and support our claim with evidence.

Below are a few resources to help both students and parents support the lessons taught in the classroom.

[Opinion Writing: Using the OREO method](#)
[How to Write a Hook](#)

Grade 7:

We are deep into the discussion of what makes people feel like they are part of a community. We will be exploring more about characterization, point of view, and author's use of craft as we examine the lives of the Greasers and the Socs in *The Outsiders*.

During this unit, students will begin analyzing textual evidence in their writing. We will continue our focus of using varying sentence lengths and types in order to strengthen our voice and reinforce our purpose for writing.

Additionally, we will begin using an interactive vocabulary notebook to help increase our knowledge of prefixes, suffixes, and Greek and Latin root words.

As a general reminder, you and your child can check grades in Sapphire to keep up to date with missing assignments. Any assignment with a (*) beside it has not been turned in.

Mrs. Liberty's English Class Reminders: IXL practice skills are due weekly and Reading Logs are due on the last day of the month.

Ms. Wittle's English Class Reminders: Book Notecards are due every week.

Happy reading :)

Grade 8

8th grade ELA students are becoming regular detectives as we read through our mystery novel, *And Then There Were None*. Students are being challenged to look closely at everyday reading to figure out more of what our authors are telling us. To help support students at home, below are a few resources:

[Context Clues Practice](#)
[Context Clues Add. Practice](#)

As students are also working on Grammar and spelling, some additional ways that parents can support students is by reading and writing at home. This can be through reading enjoyable books together as a family, or by encouraging your child to journal. Some resources to help support this are:

[Getting Started with Reading at Home](#)
[Supporting Independent Reading](#)