

# Core 8 Syllabus

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Room 216

Prep Period: 7<sup>th</sup> Period (M~ 2:06- 2:45;  
T-F~ 1:29-2:14)

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**Course Description and Prerequisites:** Core 8 is a year long course which is integrated with units on Colonies through the Civil War. In “**Language Arts**” students will read from selected novels and from anthology sources for each of the five units defined for the year. Spelling, vocabulary development, writing projects (that follow the writing process and use six traits of writing), grammar, literary terms, poetry, research reports, book reports, writing mechanics, and editing skills will be emphasized. During “**History**” students will study the following units: Colonization, Revolution, Freedom Documents, A Nation Grows (Reform through Westward Expansion), and the Civil War. Students will work individually and in groups to complete units that will emphasize these areas: **Schema** (activation of prior knowledge and exploration of themes and issues), **Content**, and **Assessment**. After each student passes the final exam, they will be given the opportunity to extend their learning through extension projects. These individual projects will conclude each unit.

**Parent Involvement:** The following suggestions to parents will help students be successful and have a positive experience in Core 8.

- Read and keep (for referral) parent letters and unit outlines.
- Monitor progress during units by checking your student’s work with the unit outline.
- Encourage and support homework and all unit assignments.
- Talk with your student on a regular basis about what he/she is learning.
- Check and discuss the contents of your student’s core speeches on occasion.
- Create an atmosphere at home where your student has a designated study space and study time.
- Be open to core groups working together at homes in the evenings and/or weekends.
- When students are assigned to get your opinions and insights be enthusiastic and help them complete the tasks.
- Offer help with homework or make sure your student asks for help before or after school.

**Core Text/Materials:** Creating America, McDougal Littell Inc., 2002; Write Source 2000, and two anthologies: Adventures for Reader, HBJ, Inc; Literature and Language, McDougal and Littell, Inc;

**Supplemental Materials:** Daily Oral Language; **Novels:** The Witch of Blackbird Pond; Johnny Tremain; Slave Dancer; and Across Five Aprils.

**Classroom Supplies:** Students will need the following: pencils, lined paper, two peechees (one for language arts and one for history), colored pencils and a black flair pen.

**Attendance:** Attendance is required in accordance with Foothill Middle School's Policy (See FMS handbook). Attendance will not be a part of a student's grade.

**Classroom Management:** Make Your Day is a citizenship program that encourages students to "Do what is expected" and to "Do their best" each period of the day. Students may earn points which will enable them to have "Made Their Day" each school day.

**Assessment/Evaluation:** Grades will be given at the end of each quarter. Midterm reports will be given to all students and will need to be signed by parents and returned for points. Two grades will be given each quarter. One for "History," and the other for "Language Arts." The grading scale for Core 8 will be:

<b>A</b>	<b>100 – 95</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>75 – 73</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>94 – 90</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>72 – 70</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>89 – 86</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>69 – 66</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>85 – 83</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>65 – 60</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>82 – 80</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>59 – 0</b>
<b>C+</b>	<b>79 – 76</b>		