



Kastner Intermediate Class Syllabus: 7th Grade Academic Block

Hello, and welcome to 7th grade at Kastner Intermediate School! We look forward to an exciting year together as a 7th Grade Team! We will work hard to motivate and challenge you to achieve your *PERSONAL BEST* in mind, body, and spirit!

◆ **Online Learning: log-on daily, each period, on time, and update planner regularly**

- enable video the entire class period **with face shown**. School appropriate, non-distracting, virtual backgrounds are okay, **but must not** be changed or altered during class time.
- use first and last name as your computer Zoom name (unless approved by teacher)
- be seated in an appropriate learning space (e.g. desk, table, counter, quiet space etc.)
- abide by the Technology Agreement form
- notify teacher when having technology issues
- actively participate in online learning the entire time with teachers, support staff, and peers.
- stay on pace with daily assignments
- take assessments online as directed by teacher
- have access to laptop/Chromebook and internet for work completion (devices available)
- have daily interaction with teachers via online learning, email, google classroom etc.

Academic Block (AB):

In Academic Block (AB), our focus is on English language arts (ELA) and history. Two separate letter grades will be posted on students' report cards for this class: language arts and history. The following is a brief description of the curriculum covered in each of these subject areas:

- **LANGUAGE ARTS:** Students will participate in a variety of learning activities designed to develop proficiency in the use of all English language conventions including spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Mastery of these skills will be demonstrated in writing assignments throughout the year in preparation for the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) Performance Task. Students will be exposed to a wide variety of fiction and nonfiction texts. They will have opportunities to listen to a variety of written works, including poetry, short stories, essays, biographies, and novels. Students will develop strategies to improve fluency and comprehension, as well as to develop a greater understanding of the structure, organization, and purpose of various types of texts.
 - ❖ Literature and language arts materials include:
 - StudySync.com - McGraw Hill Education - online
 - Core Literature – novels (listed below)
 - Grammar, spelling, and writing are woven into the literature and history lessons
 - Language homework/quizzes may be assigned weekly
- **HISTORY:** Students will be involved in research projects to help them understand what life was like in various ancient world cultures. These include: The Roman Civilization, Islamic Civilization, Medieval Africa, China in the Middle Ages, Medieval Japan, Medieval Europe, The Renaissance, The Reformation, the Americas, the Age of Exploration, and the Age of Enlightenment. Seventh

graders will learn about the geography, religion, achievements, politics, economy, and social structure of these ancient world cultures.

❖ History text:

- Textbook: *Medieval and Early Modern Times* – This textbook can be accessed online.

*** PLEASE NOTE:**

Students can check-out a hard copy of the history textbook listed above for use at school and home. However, if you have a computer at home, your child may choose to access the text electronically instead through my website.

PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION: Contact the front office if you misplace your login information. Teacher email addresses are available on the CUSD website. Individual teachers may utilize mass email, Remind, or other apps to stay in contact with families. The Clovis Unified app is available to all cellular devices and is a great way to stay in contact with your school, clear absences, and stay up to date. **You can also reset your child's password by going to CUSD.com, departments, Informational Technology, and on the right side is Tech help for students.**

- **PARENTS : may assist with technology, but due to privacy/safety concerns, only students enrolled in the class can participate in Zoom meetings.**
- **Parent questions will be addressed via email or phone call, not during Zoom meetings.**

GRADING POLICY:

Grades are based on your performance on tests, quizzes, projects, homework, and participation in class activities and discussions. The grading scale in this class is as follows:

90% and above	= A	60% to 69%	= D
80% to 89%	= B	0% to 59%	= F
70% to 79%	= C		

1. Students' final grades are based on tests, project/report grades, homework/classwork, and participation/presentations.
2. Projects and reports will be graded according to rubrics provided.
3. All assignments will be due by the six-week grading period on Friday, September 25th by 2:00 P.M. After this, those assignments will be recorded as a zero and cannot be made up.
4. After the six-week grading period, late assignments must be turned in within two weeks of the due date for a minimum grade of 70%. If not, they will be marked as a zero and cannot be made up.

Other Supplementary Materials that may be used in class

In an effort to continuously generate meaningful conversation and reflection, students will read, view, or use other supplementary materials related to the standard curriculum. Supplemental reading materials and movies will only be used when the content adds value to what students are learning in class. No films beyond a G rating will be shown without specific written permission from the parent. **(Please complete permission form at the end of the syllabus).**

Books that may be utilized throughout the school year are listed below. If you do not want your child to read or listen to any or all of these books, please contact me. These are district approved novels.

Call of the Wild by Jack London- As Buck, a mistreated sled dog, roams the Alaskan wilderness and once again experiences the "call of the wild," he finds friendship with a new master. Through personification the California author explicates the tension between the modern world and nature.

The Giver by Lois Lowry- This story is set in a society that is uniformly run by a Committee of

Elders. Twelve-year-old Jonas's confidence in his comfortable "normal" existence as a member of this well-ordered community is shaken when he is assigned his life's work as the Receiver. The Giver, who passes on to Jonas the burden of being the holder for the community of all memory "back and back and back," teaches him the cost of living in an environment that is "without color, pain, or past."

Among the Hidden by Haddix, Margaret Peterson - In a future where the Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children, Luke has lived all his twelve years in isolation and fear on his family's farm, until another "third" convinces him that the government is wrong

The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins-The Capitol, a highly advanced metropolis, exercises political control over the rest of the nation. The Hunger Games is an annual event in which one boy and one girl aged 12–18 from each of the twelve districts surrounding the Capitol are selected by lottery to compete in a televised battle royale to the death.

Movies that may be shown throughout the school year are listed below. If you do not want your child to view any or all of these movies, please note that on the signature page as instructed, and an alternative assignment will be given.

Mulan I and II- rated G- Instructional purpose: Chinese legend (*Legend of Hua Mulan*); character development, cultural norms in the medieval ages.

Lion King - rated G- Instructional purpose: African legend (*Sundiata the Hungering Lion*); Plot development, character development, external/internal conflict.

The Sword and the Stone- rated G- Animated version of the Legend of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table; cultural norms in the Medieval Ages.

The Giver - rated PG-13-Instructional purpose: Compare and contrast to Lois Lowry's award-winning novel of the same name; Explanatory writing

Remember the Titans - rated PG - reward

McFarland - rated PG - celebration, teaching grit and leadership

Night at the Museum - rated PG - class reward, incorporates historical characters

Technology/Online Learning

We have many activity-based and research-based assignments, and utilizing the Internet. These projects and activities may include, but not limited to, the use of Zoom, Google Docs, Google Classroom, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Quill, Quizziz, Google Slides, Commonlit, Read Theory, PowerPoint, Adobe Spark and StudySync.

- Laptop computers are used as a tool to research, present, and store information.
- We will use laptops almost **daily** until the last week of school
- Students who **do not use technology appropriately** will have consequences which may include loss of use privileges.
- **Parents and students must sign the Technology Use Agreement**

The Rules of our 7th Grade Classrooms:

- ◆ **Respect is essential for you, your neighbor, and your community. This means the following:**
 - Listen when others speak during class instruction, as well as during whole group and small group discussions. Give everyone equal opportunity to speak and be heard.
 - Stand up for what is fair and right for you, as well as others.
 - Be on time
 - Treat others the same way you would like to be treated.

- Raise your hand if you wish to speak during class discussions or lecture.
- Follow all instructions during activities. There will be times you will be seated, and other times you will be up and moving around the classroom.
- **Please don't be distracted with your cell phone while I'm instructing.**

◆ **Responsibility is essential for success in life inside and outside our classrooms. This means the following:**

- Be an active and cooperative team member.
- Complete all assigned work on time and to the best of your ability.
- Come to class prepared and ready to contribute.
- **ALWAYS ask when you are unsure! We are on your team and here to help!**

Discipline

- ◆ Discipline procedure is outlined in the Kastner Parent/ Student Handbook.
- ◆ As a rule, we generally:
 1. Warn
 2. Conference with student, possibly lunch detention
 3. Contact parent/after school detention
 4. Refer to Student Responsibility Center (SRC)

Assignment Policies

1. Kastner Intermediate provides each student with a FREE academic planner. Students must use the planner in each class to record daily assignments, homework, objectives, and school-wide instructional focus.
2. If absent, students will be given the same number of days they were absent to make up the work that they missed. Students must schedule a time with their teacher to make up missed tests.
3. Assignments must be completed and turned in on the due date, unless student has an excused absence. Late or incomplete work must be submitted within one week of the due date and may result in lunch detention, after school detention, and/or reduced credit. Additional time may be granted per teacher discretion.

Recommended Supplies (not needed until we resume traditional instruction)

1. Two 70 page (minimum) spiral notebooks
2. Pencils – mechanical or standard. If you prefer mechanical pencils, please keep lead refills on hand.
3. Pens, blue or black ink preferred.
4. White binder paper, college ruled
5. 2 Highlighters (different colors)
6. Markers and/or colored pencils
7. Facial tissue (for extra tickets)

Textbooks (from Parent-Student Handbook)

Students are responsible for the care of each textbook assigned to them. Textbooks that are lost or stolen and books that show excessive wear and/or damage are charged to the pupil and parents. A student must turn in the same textbook that was issued to him/her.

Absences/ Attendance

At this level, attendance is critical. It is difficult for students to catch-up if they are frequently absent.

Please call the office and make arrangements for work if your child will be absent for 5 or more days.

1. When you are absent, your parent/guardian should call the school as soon as possible to clear that absence.
2. **Tardy Policy** - 1st Offense = warning, 2nd Offense = Reminder/Counsel & Parent Informed, 3rd Offense = Lunch Detention & Parent Informed, 4th Offense = Double Lunch Detention & Parent Informed, 5th Offense = After school Detention & Parent Informed/SRC Referral, 6th Offense = Referral to SRC.