

Edward Harris Jr. Middle School

Course Syllabus for 2009-2010

Department: Enrichment, Course: Public Speaking

Instructor: Mr. Amey

Contact Information: (916) 688-0080 (school phone)/ camey@egusd.net (email)

Course Description

Public Speaking 1 is designed for the student who would like to gain more poise and confidence in his/her communication skills. Public Speaking is a valuable skill that will be practiced and utilized throughout the course of one's lifetime, whether it be in a business or personal setting. It is a vital ability required for success in today's world. Course content may include individual speeches, such as the personal experience, demonstration, informative, persuasive and impromptu, as well as narrative speaking, oral interpretation of prose and/or poetry, original oratory, acting, and debate.

Student Academic Expectations

Students are expected and required to actively engage and participate in daily writing activities, as well as a variety of other activities that will provide them with opportunities to meet the State standards in the areas of writing, listening and speaking.

Student Behavior Expectation

This class is a safe environment. We understand how brave one has to be to perform in front of their peers, so we will create an environment in which every student feels comfortable to perform to their full capabilities. **Students who threaten this environment will be penalized and dealt with according to our school rules.** Since this course is offered on a 9 week block schedule, regular attendance is going to be crucial to the student's success. Habitually tardy students will be asked to serve after school detention. Students are expected to attend class prepared to participate in the day's activities. While in class, or on a field trip, students are expected to comply with the school-wide classroom rules, and respond appropriately if he/she chooses to break a rule. There will be detentions for classroom rule violators.

Parental Support

Parents are encouraged to hold their child accountable for all extended learning assignments, as well as guide them through any speaking performances which require preparation. Note: Parent participation with transportation for research field trips and competitions is highly encouraged.

Course Curriculum

Materials for this course consist of a culmination of textbooks (provided) and worksheets. All course materials will be provided, however, see Student Supplies for additional materials.

Extended Learning (Homework)

Students are expected to complete all extended learning assignments by the next day unless otherwise specified. Late work will be accepted at the Teacher's discretion. Usually students will be given one day to make up work for every day missed. Speech performances and research assignments will be given adequate time for preparation. Students will be given alternative assignments for missed class activities that involve presentation/ speech.

Special Events

To further enhance and hone the skills that each student will acquire, we will be having special events where students can showcase their skills outside of the classroom. There will be a Poetry Reading Night, The Great Debate (Public Speaking Night), and weekly student creed reading.

Standards at a Glance

1. Students will progress through the stages of the writing process.
2. Students will write clear, coherent and focused speeches.
3. Students will write speech outlines.
4. Students will demonstrate a command of Standard American English through writing and speaking.
5. Students will deliver narrative, expository, persuasive and descriptive speeches.

Grading Policy

Students will receive grades for writing assignments, class participation, speaking techniques, speech delivery, quizzes and exams. Students will be given two days for each day missed to make up any work (the responsibility lies on the student to see about missed work). Rubrics and percentages will be used to score student performance; however, final grades will be based on total points for the term.

A = 100-90% B = 89-80% C = 79-70% D = 69-60% F = 59% and below

Student Supplies

Supplies will consist of a single subject spiral notebook, pencils, pens, erasers, colored pencils, markers for poster making, small scissors, glue, etc.

Please sign and return the syllabus. The student is to keep the syllabus in his/her binder for future reference.

Sincerely,
Mr. Amey

I have read and understand Mr. Amey's classroom information and requirements.

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian

Phone

Email