Ms. Salfiti - Curriculum Notes

6th-8th Grade News
Hooray for finals week! For the Language Arts final, Mrs. Gulec and I have decided to do a joint project- campaign. This means that there will be both a Language Arts portion and a Math portion. Students are expected to present their projects on Monday, October 22nd.

5th Grade News
For finals week, Mrs. Gulec and I have decided to assign a joint project. Therefore, there will be a Math and Language Arts portion to their final project. Students are to work in small groups no larger than 3 students, and they are to create a campaign from 6 pre-selected topics. A one page Persuasive Argument Essay is required from ALL students! They can choose to either create a campaign poster, commercial/video, or to have a debate (with note cards). Presentations will begin on Monday, October 22nd.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:
“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it”
Aristotle

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Parent Contact
Assalamo Alikom!

Dear Parents,

As you may know this week is finals week! I will not be assigning a final test, but a final project. The math teacher and I have teamed up to do a joint project that will include both Math and Language Arts. I will also be giving them time in class throughout the week for them to prepare their project, as well as the time they spend at home. It is a group project so students may have to meet with each other outside of class. On Friday, they will be presenting their campaign to the class. I will only be accepting projects that are on time (the essay portion by Friday). They will begin presenting on Monday, October 22nd. I have attached a copy of what’s expected of them for their campaign. If at any point you would like to contact me regarding your child’s progress, please don’t hesitate to do so.

1. Homework. This week there will be no spelling test- in lieu of the final project/campaign. We will begin presenting on Monday (10/22). However, students are still required to read 30 minutes Monday-Thursday, complete their reading log, and turn it in by Friday (10/12).

2. School Events. There will be no school on Thursday and Friday of next week (10/25 and 10/26).

3. Class Announcements. 6th Graders- Don’t forget to bring in your canned food, for the food drive. The winning class will be rewarded with an ice cream party!
**Election Campaign Project**

For this project, you will work with a small group to design a campaign to elect the best topic. Each group will be assigned one of the attached persuasive argument topics. You will design a campaign for your topic in order to persuade an audience that your topic is extremely important. You may work by yourself or in groups of 2 (not 3, not 4…2.)

There are two components to this project:

1. **A Campaign Poster.** This poster should be visually appealing and grab your audience’s attention. Although you are expected to use your own creative skills, your poster must include the following:
   - A campaign slogan that is catchy, memorable, and (most importantly) original (No rip offs!). The slogan must in some way represent what you are trying to persuade your audience to do.
   - Real-life Examples (ie, if you think that drinking should be legal at age 18, where is drinking really legal at age 18 and how has that affected their society?)
   - A mascot for your campaign.
   - You should make every attempt to make your poster look as neat and visually appealing as possible. (No crooked letters, no misspellings, a nicely drawn illustration, etc.) Put some effort into this. Do a few drafts of your design!

   OR

2. **A Commercial/Video.** The video must state a clear position statement and persuade your audience that your view on the topic is the best view. The video should be no longer than 2-3 minutes but longer than 1 minute.

   OR

3. **A Debate** with another student in your group. Each person will initially have 2 minutes to state their position. Thereafter, each person will have 2 minutes to rebuttal against their opponent. You must have your debate written out on index cards, with possible rebuttals also written on cards.

******WITH*******

**A Campaign Speech/Essay.** Each group member should write a campaign speech from the point of view of your candidate. You should plan to write a one-minute speech (2 pages handwritten).

- The speech should persuade a theoretical voting audience why your part of speech is the ideal candidate or, in other words, why your topic of choice is the most necessary.
- It must include your slogan and examples.
- It should also cover several of the ways that the topic is useful.
- Above all, your speech should demonstrate that you understand how your part of speech is used in every way.
Topics to choose from: **5th Grade Topics ONLY!**
1. Should students be allowed to have laptops or cell phones in middle school?
2. Should violent video games be banned?
3. Should the voting age be lowered to thirteen?
4. Should students be offered fast food options like McDonalds or Taco Bell?
5. Should students have to pass a basic skills test to graduate?
6. Should students be paid for having good grades?

**FOR YUR MATH PORTION OF THE GRADE, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR CHOSEN PRESENTATION:**
1. 3 factual statistics about your topic. If your statistic is a graph, print it to share it. The source of your statistics must be noted and must be reputable!
2. Conduct a survey about how at least 20 other people feel about the subject-ask them a “YES/NO/I DON’T KNOW” question. Keep your surveys and turn them in!
3. Present this data in percentages.
4. Present your survey data in graphical form- line plot, bar graph, pie graph, histogram, or pictograph. You may use your percentages on your graph. Make sure your graph has a title, and that the graph is LABELED.

**Schedule for 10/15-10/19**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday (10/15)</th>
<th>Tuesday (10/16)</th>
<th>Wednesday (10/17)</th>
<th>Thursday (10/18)</th>
<th>Friday (10/19)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Warm up: Journal Prompt</td>
<td>How to make an outline for persuasive argument essay- bubble and roman numeral outline</td>
<td>How to find proper facts to support your opinions and position (persuasive argument essay)</td>
<td>Mini lesson: how to cite properly using MLA format</td>
<td>Collect reading logs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discuss details and expectations for campaign project</td>
<td>Hand out and discuss research logs</td>
<td>Credible sources</td>
<td>Persuasive argument examples</td>
<td>Class time to practice presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pick groups and begin brainstorming</td>
<td>Class time to prepare for projects</td>
<td>Class time to prepare project- begin working on rough drafts</td>
<td>Finish preparing essay and poster/video/or debate</td>
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<td>Hand out reading logs for the week</td>
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