



Tefft Middle School
Home of the Troyans!

8th. Grade Spanish Language Arts e History

Sra., Olga Olivia Bucio

olgabucio@u-46.org

Sr. Angel M Cueva

angelcueva@u-46.org

Dr. Ramiro Juarez

ramirojuarez@u-46.org

A Tefft Student...

- ★ Is Always Prepared
- ★ Sets Goals
- ★ Respects Self, Others, and School
- ★ Is Always Improving
- ★ Keeps Data
- ★ Gets Results

Learn Like a Champion!
Battle For Success
Accept Nothing Less!!!

8th Grade English Language Arts Course Description

This course aims to cultivate students' proficiency and confidence in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The focus is on fostering higher-order thinking skills, and grammar (usage, mechanics), enhancing students' reading and writing endurance, and exposing them to a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts within the theme of choices, thus encouraging appreciation. Students will need to complete multiple pieces of academic writing and various presentations in different formats. Academic writing requirements encompass the structuring and development of argumentative, analytical, and research writing using a workshop approach. Additionally, attention will be devoted to integrating technology and multimedia aspects of digital literacy essential for college and career readiness. Course activities will encompass reading, writing, small group collaboration, individual and group projects, standard and local assessments (both formative and summative), research, mastering and effectively employing academic vocabulary, and delivering oral presentations.

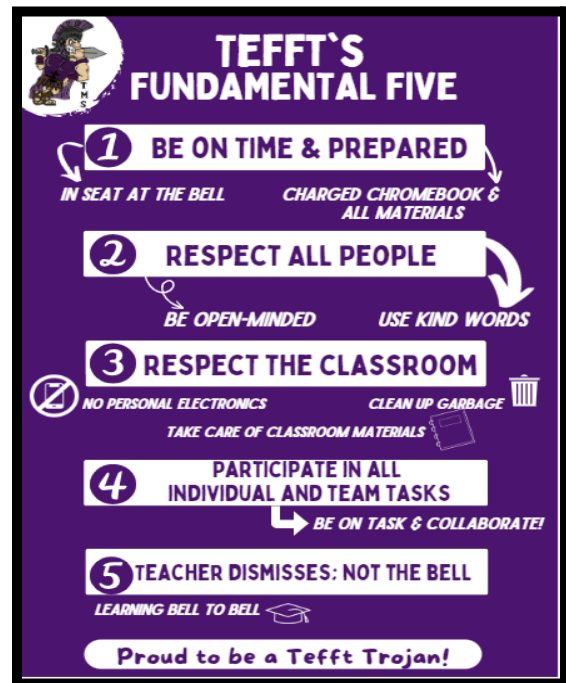
The 8th Grade History of the United States Course

Provides a comprehensive overview of American history, commencing with the Colonization of the Americas in 1450 and culminating with the Civil War in 1865. This course aims to facilitate students' comprehension of the causal factors and underlying principles behind specific historical occurrences and patterns within our society. Its objective is to equip students with a historical foundation essential for understanding the dynamics of the 21st century. By undertaking this survey course, students will gain insights into the geographical, political, and economic progressions that continue to influence contemporary events.

Online Resources for Students and Parents

1. **CANVAS**- parents, [sign up as an observer](#) on your student's Canvas page
2. **Tefft Middle School** Website: <https://www.u-46.org/tefft>
3. District **U-46** Website: <https://www.u-46.org/>
4. Log in to **Clever** (<https://clever.com/schools/>) for access to district-provided applications
5. **INFINITE CAMPUS**- [See grades, assignments, and messages](#) from teachers
6. [Student Points](#) to view positive points given by teachers

Classroom expectations Tefft's Fundamental FIVE



Classroom expectations

- Follow Tefft's motto: Respect yourself, respect others, and respect the school!
- Use your school identification every time at the school.
- Review your email and the online resources at least one time a week.
- Start working on your assignment immediately.
- Be prepared with your classroom materials, including your homework.

Classroom Rules

- Chromebook: Charged Chromebooks are to be brought to class daily. If a student does not bring his or her
- Chromebook, the student is expected to continue participating in class and complete all class work.
- Stay in your seat and be prepared when the last bell rings.
- Raise your hand to ask or answer questions.
- Wait until your teacher lets you leave the classroom, not by the bell. Secondary Literacy and Standards-Based Learning and Assessment
- The use of cell phones is prohibited at the school. They must be turned off at the school and keep them in your lockers or the cellphone pockets in the classroom during each class period.
- No cosmetics and other objects/items not part of the school materials are allowed in the classroom.
- Gum is not allowed in the classroom.
- Food, liquids, and candy are not allowed in the classroom unless the teacher gives his/her permission. If this happens, students must eat in the classroom

Classroom Materials

- Textbook / E-Book: Discovering Our Past: A History of the United States Early Years
- Interactive Notebook (digital/Composition Notebook)
- Black binder
- Line sheets
- Post-it notes
- Pencil, markers, pens, colored pencils, glue, and scissors.

Attendance

Punctuality and regular attendance are crucial for academic success. We kindly request that you encourage your child to attend all classes without fail. In the event of your child's absence, please notify the school office. It is the student's responsibility to catch up on missed lessons by consulting with the teacher or classmates. Additionally, all missed work must be submitted the day following the student's return. Thank you for your cooperation in maintaining a productive learning environment.

Eighth-grade Spanish Language Arts (ALE) and History will implement a standards-based learning and assessment (SBLA) approach, in conjunction with the WIDA framework, to assess students' proficiency based on grade and content level standards.

The standards-based learning and assessment approach involves:

- Assessing students' knowledge and skills
- Tracking student progress in meeting standards
- Communicating expectations in advance
- Emphasizing complex tasks over memorization
- Focusing on recent evidence of learning

Course Strands (Criteria for Student Evaluation)

- **1. Reading:** Close reading, citation, analysis, and inference
- **2. Writing:** Production of clear and coherent written work
- **3. Communication:** Oral and written communication, listening skills, and language proficiency

To exhibit mastery of course standards, students are expected to:

1. Actively engage in classroom activities (including but not limited to taking notes, participating in group work, and completing in-class assignments.)
2. Fulfill assigned homework obligations as necessary to reinforce and enhance learning.
3. Utilize formative assessments to monitor progress, identify strengths and weaknesses in course material, and undertake supplementary practice as required.
4. Complete all assessments, both formative and summative.
5. Devise and execute an improvement plan in instances where understanding of learning objectives is inadequate.

4 = Mastery	Please remember the following information: When used for formative or practice assessments , a rating of 4 signifies the presence of a comprehensive range of competencies and skills necessary for the assigned work or assessment. In the context of a summative or final evaluation, a score of 4 reflects the highest level of proficiency and expertise in the subject matter, demonstrating advanced knowledge and the capability to apply course or grade-level concepts effectively.
3 = Proficient	For formative or practice assessments , receiving a score of 3 signifies the demonstration of a majority of the essential understandings and skills necessary for the assigned work or assessment. Regarding summative or final evaluations , a score of 3 indicates a commendable level of comprehension and proficiency, demonstrating work that consistently meets the standards of the course or grade level.
2 = Basic	For developmental or instructional purposes, a rating of 2 signifies a demonstration of the foundational competencies and skills essential for achieving proficiency in the subject at advanced levels. In the context of a comprehensive assessment or final grade, a score of 2 indicates a level of achievement characterized by partial mastery of the essential knowledge and skills pertinent to the course or academic level. This suggests that students exhibit familiarity with fundamental concepts but may encounter challenges with more advanced content.
1 = Below Basic	For formative or practice assessments , a rating of 1 indicates an initial grasp or partial demonstration of foundational competencies or skills essential for achieving mastery of the concept at advanced levels. In the context of a summative evaluation or final grade, a score of 1 signifies a constrained understanding of the course or grade level's essential skills. Students may need help with fundamental concepts and may require additional support.
0 = No Evidence	Please note the following information for assignments intended for practice or assessment, the assignment will receive a score of 0 if the student fails to present any demonstrable evidence of learning, including missing or incomplete work. In the case of final grades or summative assessments, a score of 0 indicates an inadequate demonstration of the knowledge and skills expected at the corresponding level of the course.

Determination of the Semester Grade

Infinite Campus serves as the platform for relaying students' proficiency levels in individual assessments, overall reporting strands, and the anticipated semester letter grade. The semester letter grade is based on the student's learning proficiencies throughout the semester. Mastery of standards is fundamental to mastering the reporting strands, subsequently leading to proficiency in the course.

The grading breakdown is as follows:

- 70%: Summative Assessment Scores
- 20%: Formative Assessment Scores
- 10%: Intentional Practice Scores

- Students' proficiency levels will be assessed using standards-based rubrics on a 0-4 scale for individual standards and assessments.
- A predicted in-progress letter grade for each reporting strand will be calculated in Infinite Campus by averaging proficiency scores.
- Similarly, a predicted semester letter grade for the course will be computed within Infinite Campus by averaging reporting strands.
- The equal incremental grading scale to determine a letter grade is provided below.

Equal Incremental Grading	
A	3.21-4
B	2.41-3.20
C	1.61- 2.40
D	.81- 1.60
E	.80- below

Retakes

- It should be noted that student-initiated opportunities for grade improvement are subject to the teacher's discretion.
- In the case of reassessment, the most recent grade will be updated in Infinite Campus. If a student obtains a higher score on a retake, the updated score will be reflected online and, if applicable, in the grade determination when nearing a reporting window.
- Each student is allowed one reassessment attempt for every summative assessment, and this must be completed before the conclusion of the subsequent unit.
- Formative assessments may be reassessed on subsequent formative assessments or through an individual reassessment. Late submissions will be accepted without penalty up until the conclusion of the unit.
- However, intentional practice work is not subject to reassessment, and the policy of accepting late submissions without penalty remains in effect until the end of the unit.

Extra Credit and Bonus Points

- To ensure that grades accurately reflect progress and attainment of the established standards, the practice of awarding extra credit or bonus points will **not** be implemented in this course.
- Furthermore, it is the policy within the U-46 vision that student behavior and participation will be reported separately from academic achievement and will not form part of a student's academic grade.

Academic Dishonesty/Plagiarism Policy

Remember to abide by principles of academic integrity across all your endeavors. Academic dishonesty encompasses actions such as cheating, copying, plagiarizing, or presenting others' work as your own, whether through verbal, written, graphic, electronic, or other means. Students discovered to have engaged in academic dishonesty will face disciplinary action. The severity of the consequences will be assessed based on the nature and frequency of the offenses, their impact on fellow students and educators, and/or the curriculum. Academic dishonesty undermines the educational process and will not be condoned.

Technology

In adherence to the class policy, students must have their Chromebooks available in class daily. Should a student fail to bring their Chromebook, they are still expected to actively participate in class and fulfill all class assignments.

Assignments will be accessible via students' **Canvas Class**, as well as on platforms such as **NewsELA, CommonLit, Writable, and Mastery Connect**.

Please be advised that the use of cell phones is strictly prohibited during class time.

Films

Throughout the academic year, film excerpts are utilized for a variety of educational purposes. On occasion, an entire film may be presented during class sessions. These film excerpts or presentations are typically classified as G, PG, or PG-13. If there are any concerns regarding the viewing of a PG-13 film by your child, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.



Moving all students forward, whatever it takes...together