

# WRITING AND RESEARCH INITIATIVES 2008-2009

Bernadette Arnone – English Coordinator

Jeannette Balantic – Social Studies Coordinator

# Writing Expectations 2008-2009

Grade	Description	Narration	Essay Basics	Creative Essay		2008-09 Assignments
6	Self-profile Compare/Contrast Person, Place, Event	Personal Journal Reflective Piece	Writing Process Write Traits	Create a Myth Poetry Short Stories	Science Research	Endangered Species Project
7	Profile of a Person Interview	Memoir Vignette	Intro to Persuasive Essay	Short Story	Social Studies Connections	Leaders of the Early Republic and Slavery
8	Description of a Place	Reflective Journal	Drafting Revising Editing	Poetry Types Poetic Devices Short Stories	Humanities Paper (English/Social Studies)	Holocaust To What Extent Do Music & Literature Reflect History? (Fregosi, Tavernise, Zaharatos)
	<b>Exposition</b>	<b>Persuasion</b>	<b>Literary Analysis</b>	<b>Creative Experience</b>		
9	Multiple Essays	Argumentation	Literary elements	Journals and Reflection	Social Studies Paper AND Science Living Environment Paper	Living Environment- Issues that Threaten Biodiversity
10	Casual Analysis	Social Issues	Comparative genre	Personal Writing Poetry PTA - Reflections	English Research – Oral Presentation	English Writing Assignment Benchmarks
	<b>Literary Interpretation</b>	<b>Literary Analysis</b>	<b>Creative Experience</b>	<b>Rotating Projects</b>		
11	Critical Lens (Regents prep)	Paired Thematic Essays Textual Analysis	Emulation Prequels/Sequels	Short Stories College Essay	English Literary Research Paper – focus on Regents	Two Literacy Criticisms & primary documents
	<b>Exposition</b>	<b>Persuasion</b>	<b>Literary Analysis</b>	<b>Creative Experience</b>		
12	Autobiography College Essay	Position Paper	Response to literary criticism	Poetry	Social Studies Government Paper AND English Speech/ Exposition – Oral Presentation	Senior Research Project (PIG) based on curriculum and current issues

# Why was the Research Committee formed?



- Enrich writing and research experiences grades 6-12
- Prepare students for post-secondary experience
- Enhance students' writing repertoire for the college application process
- Engage students in meaningful research grades 6-12

Katherine Thullen

Diane Veitch (*Art*)

# RESEARCH COMMITTEE:

Wendy Bouchard (*English*)

Diane Dolan

Julia Zafiropoulos

Lois Kuster (*Librarian*)

Richard Hoffman (*Math*)

Steve Gordon (*Science*)

Patricia Mannion

Jennifer Pollack (*Special Ed*)

Stacey DeCillis (*Social Studies*)

Lauren Dunne

Erica Fregosi

Charles Menges

Kevin O'Hagan

Susanna Sheehan

Lea Brunetti (*World Language*)

Marie Nuzzi

David Strauzer

Bernadette Arnone (*Administrators*)

Jeannette Balantic

Rita Melikian

Teresa Prendergast

## What were the goals of the research committee?



- Reflect on our existing research practices
- Review the placement of research/writing assignments at each grade level
- Create a mission statement/rationale for a research curriculum
- Review/revise the current research manual at the middle school and high school
- Coordinate efforts with the library curriculum review committee

# How did the committee function?



- Overall goal – Engage students in meaningful research
- What does masterful research look like?
- What do kids need to know and be able to do with regard to research?
- What are the components of a 5-12 research curriculum?
- How can we create the components of the curriculum?
- How can we turn the committee's ideas into an action plan and successfully implement them?

# What did the committee create?



- Mission Statement
- Essential Questions
- Scope and Sequence of Skills
- Research Guide (revised)
- Uniform Research Rubric
- Placement for grade level research assignments

# 2009-2010 Writing Initiatives



- Implement quarterly benchmarks, 6-11 (analytical, narrative, persuasive and creative genres)
- Adopt a grammar text series in support of writing instruction, 6-8
- Continue analysis of ERB Writing Assessment results to inform writing instruction
- Continue the use of *Write Traits* program; develop a *Write Traits* based rubrics to assess student work on benchmark assignments
- Increase use of Writing Center to facilitate writing/revision process

# Committee Recommendations

- Increase the number of mobile laptop carts available to classroom teachers to meet the growing demand for research opportunities
- Explore the possibility of offering a writing/research course in grade 9 or 8
- Explore the possibility of developing of a writing center in the middle school
- Secure summer curriculum time to complete the research manual
- Offer teachers staff development opportunities to support them as they implement research projects
- Provide teachers with time for vertical and horizontal articulation regarding students' research experiences.
- Plan library orientations for students and teachers (ms/hs)
- Present committee's work to the faculty on Superintendent's Conference Day