

# GHS Course Syllabus

Subject: Content Strategies 2M

Year: 2012-2013

Department: Special Education	Room #204	Periods Taught: 2B
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Course Title: <b>Content Area Strategies 2M</b>
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Course Description: This course is designed as a support to be taken concurrently with a general education English, Science, Health and or Social Studies. It will provide direct instruction and guided practice in the areas of writing, comprehension of information and literary text, research and technical writing. Skill development will focus on literal comprehension and paragraph development. Study skills relevant to content area classes will be taught.

Instructor information: Melinda Callahan  
*Bachelor of Arts Degree in Marketing, Data Processing, Western Michigan University '84  
Masters of the Arts in Teaching, Pacific University '01, Business Endorsement, Special Education Endorsement.  
University of Portland: '03, Reading Endorsement*

Course/Faculty Website: <http://www.hsd.k12.or.us/glencoe/Staff.html>

Office Hours: I am available at the following times: 8:00am – 10:00am, 12:30 – 1:30  
[callaham@hsd.k12.or.us](mailto:callaham@hsd.k12.or.us) (503) 844-1900 #3576

Note to Parents: If parents and/or students wish to contact me about any questions or concerns, the best times to reach me are during the listed office hours. If I am unable to be reached, please leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Parent/teacher meetings must be pre-arranged by phone or e-mail.

## **Learning Outcomes**

### Course Objectives

- Uses a variety of strategies to prepare for writing, such as brainstorming, making lists, mapping, outlining, grouping related ideas, using graphic organizers, and taking notes.
- Creates a single paragraph with clear sentences that include a topic sentence, simple supporting facts and details, and a concluding sentence. (*Not on the 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> grade standards.*)
- Creates a composition that establishes a coherent and clearly supported thesis that engages the reader, conveys a clear and distinctive perspective on the subject, maintains a consistent tone and focus throughout the piece of writing, and ends with a well supported conclusion.
- Creates an organizational structure that logically and effectively presents information using transitional elements that unify paragraphs and the work as a whole.
- Uses the writing process – prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing successive versions.
- Uses conventions of punctuation correctly, including semicolons, colons, ellipses, hyphens, and dashes.

- Edits and proofreads one's own writing, as well as that of others, using the writing conventions, and, for example, an editing checklist or list of rules with specific examples of corrections of specific errors.

In addition to the course hours in the classroom, the expectation for work completion outside of class includes approximately 1-2 hours. Activities will include: reading and journal writing.

**Reading Independent Novel**

Required Text: Avid activities, weekly articles, writing activities, **bring homework to work on last half of class**

**Grading** Grading Scale:  
 90 - 100% A  
 80 – 89% B  
 70 – 79% C  
 60 - 69% D  
 50 - 59% F

Late Work/Make-up Policy: Late work will be accepted for excused absences **only**. The maximum points you may earn for a late assignment will go down each week (from the due date) by one letter grade.

Cheating/Plagiarism Policy: Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any student caught cheating will receive a grade of zero on the assignment or exam. In the event of a second offense, the student may be removed from the class with loss of credit, suspended, or expelled from school.

Classroom Conduct:

- Absences- It's very important that you come to class **every** day. Your ability to come to class mentally prepared to learn is closely connected with the success you will see in the classroom. If you happen to miss my class for any reason it is **your** responsibility to find out what you have missed and turn it in. An updated assignment list will be located in the room so that you can see what you have missed on the day(s) you were gone.
- Food/Drink- Students are allowed snacks or drinks in my class as long as it does not become a distraction to the rest of the class.
- Headphones/other electrical devices- No headphones, cell phones or other electronic devices with the exception of teacher approval for appropriate use of research or academic learning.
- Behavioral Expectations- Students are expected to behave in a manner that is conducive to a learning environment. Be respectful of others (staff and students), equipment, and facilities. This class will be a SAFE learning environment for everyone. Anything less will not be tolerated.

**Students and Parents/Guardians – Please provide your signature below indicating you have read and understand the requirements and expectations of this course**

Student Signature & Date

Parent/Guardian Signature & Date