



JONATHAN MENEFEE

Grade 7 HR, Grades 6-8 LA

About Me:

My name is Jonathan R. Menefee. I earned my undergraduate degree in English and History from Catawba College in Salisbury, North Carolina. I received my graduate degree in the Art of Teaching from National Louis University in Chicago, Illinois. I began teaching Language Arts at St. Thomas of Villanova School in August of 2021. My teaching philosophy is that Language Arts is a combination of three parts: reading, writing and critical speaking. I assess students on their proximal zone of learning and then work to set realistic expectations for where we can expand that learning over the course of their time in my classroom. I believe in promoting a growth mindset, grit, and a sense of independence that comes from true self-understanding and advocacy for one's self in all aspects of life.

Religion:

Religion is extremely important in the classroom because it provides guiding principles and philosophy for which to measure our behaviors and efforts by. Without religion, we might be simply a kite without a string. We all need a sense of religion to connect to our community and help us then explore and become our fullest and most beautiful selves. I help students grow in faith by letting them understand where that string is and where it connects them to their faith, family and education.

Field Trips:

- Taft (6th)
- Timberlee (7th)
- Washington D.C (8th)

About STV School:

STV school has a great group of people that make it special. The staff are collegial and wonderful to work with. The parents are supportive and available to ensure the school runs smoothly. The students are happy. Happy kids are the best.

Special Units & Projects:

- Vocabulary
 - Word of the Week
 - Pronunciation, Definition, Usage, Synonyms
 - Sadlier Vocabulary and IXL
- Grammar
 - Sadlier Grammar and IXL
- I-Ready
- Memorization
 - Working on memorizing and committing to understanding and relating to passages from The Bible
- Standards of Performance
 - Suggestions for how we measure our impact on the universe around us in both positive and negative ways.
 - Best Practices for being our best selves to achieve our optimal results
- Friends Unit (read a book about friendships and write an informative essay about how the book supports our understanding about what makes for a good friendship)
 - What are the characteristics of a good friend
 - What evidence from the reading supports those explanations
 - Writing an essay with at least three characteristics supported each by at least one piece of direct evidence
 - Outline
 - Intro Paragraph
 - Thesis statement
 - Strong Evidence
 - Drafting
 - Editing
 - Publishing
 - Presenting
- Short Story Unit (read a collection and then write a narrative essay that is a development of our own short story using our learned writing process.)
- Time and Reality Unit (read a book that has us think about the concepts of time and reality and write a descriptive essay using direct evidence from the book to support our understanding of how time and reality function to create our lives in perception of the universe.)
- Life Worth Living Unit (use reading and writing to understand the idea of what it means to lead a life worth living and express what our worthwhile lives would look like today and in the future.)