

“PERSPECTIVES” MINI COURSE

WELCOME ABOARD!

Key Points:

- YOU have talents!
- God has created YOU for a purpose!
- Becoming aware of YOUR talents builds confidence.
- Applying YOUR strengths will improve your achievement.
- God can use YOUR talents in relationships, academics, leadership, service and careers (some day).

I am excited to have the opportunity of working with our 8th grade students this year! In the “Perspectives” class the students will be looking at a very important subject... themselves! Many students cannot identify what their talents and strengths are. It is my goal to help each student in this class to see himself or herself as a unique person that God has created for a unique purpose. It is my desire that the students leave the class with a better understanding of who they are and how God can better use them. With high school looming in the distance, it is my hope that this is a springboard to the future.

-Mr. Esslinger, Principal

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CLASS:

- To help students identify and develop their greatest God-given talents.
- To help students apply their talents in decision making and academics.
- To help students apply their talents in areas beyond academics, for example in leadership, service and relationship building.
- To help students see how God can use them in His plans!
- ****NOTE:** All 8th grade students will be taking an on-line character assessment test during the week of September 16-19. I will be supervising this test process in our computer lab. This is a very important piece of information that will lead into our discussions. In order to take the test, EACH student needs an e-mail address. Please feel free to e-mail me if you need more info.

HOW TO ACHIEVE A GRADE:

- Participation and cooperation is 40% of the grade! Each student must get involved to the best of their ability.
- Homework is 30% of the grade. **There won't be a lot, so each assignment is very important!**
- Class Syllabus returned and complete at the end of the quarter... 20% of the grade.
- Preparation is 10% of the grade. The following items must be brought to class each day: (Binder, Organizer, StrengthsQuest book, Syllabus, Pen and/or Pencil)

PLEASE RETURN TO MR. ESSLINGER BY THE ASSIGNED DATE. THIS IS FOR A GRADE!

We have read the course description of the “Perspectives” Mini Course Class.

Student Name (please print): _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

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COURSE OUTLINE

Teacher's Name: Rolland C. Esslinger		Subject: Perspectives 8th Mini Course		Period(s): 7th M/W/F		
Unit #: 1	Dates - Starting: Beg. Of Quarter		Ending: End of Quarter	Total Instructional Days: Approximately 22 per quarter		
Unit Title: Developing the students' awareness of their God-given strengths						
Theme: Strength-perspective and outlook on life in general (biblical base)						
Biblical Application: God wants us to use our talents and strengths for Him. I will use many scripture references to back up this concept						
Key Concepts		Standards/Sub-Strands		Outcomes	Assessment	ESLRs
1)	Establish the classroom standards and expectations of behavior			I want the class to operate smoothly and students to respect each other and the teacher	Quizzing of class rules periodically. Observation	2b, 3b, 3c, 4c, 4d
2)	Break the ice. 2 or 3 class sessions to build a comfort level in the class.			In order to make the class successful (because it will be so heavy in discussion), they must be willing to share and be honest!	Calling on them individually and in group settings. Contests	2d, 2e, 4c, 4i, 6d
3)	Take the StrengthsQuest online test. This will take some time to build comfort as well as to give accurate and understandable instructions.			Students will leave the testing session with a printed outcome of their recognized strength themes.	StrengthQuest test	1b, 2b, 3d, 5b, 6a
4)	Direct the students through the sharing of their tested strengths. This will take multiple class sessions.			Students will get the opportunity to share & be told about their tested strengths.	Verbal group sharing and building each other up	1b, 2a, 2c, 2d, 4c, 5d, 6c, 6e
5)	Support the students by sharing and working them through many scriptures verses and passages			Students will leave the Perspectives class with a greater understanding of who they are in Christ.	Verbal group sharing, quizzing, paper writing, class evaluation paper.	1b, 1c, 1d, 2a, 3e, 4e, 4f, 5c, 5d, 6c, 6e
Key Activities and Methods		Group discussion, quizzing (oral and written), homework, online testing, interviewing each other, scripture reading and discussion, reading of StrengthQuest book				

HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Mission Statement

"Our mission is to educate students to know Christ personally, excel academically, think biblically, and positively impact their community for Christ."

Expected Schoolwide Learning Results (ESLRs)

1. Biblical World View

Graduates of HCJH are expected to be individuals who . . .

- a) know how to study the Bible.
- b) recognize that all people are created in the image of the one true God.
- c) acknowledge the Bible as the infallible Word of God.
- d) use God's Word to discern truth.

2. Effective Communicators

Graduates of HCJH are expected to be effective communicators who . . .

- a) listen objectively and critically.
- b) understand and follow directions.
- c) write and speak clearly and accurately.
- d) express and support opinions using objective evidence.
- e) utilize various modalities effectively.
- f) can demonstrate a personal relationship with Jesus Christ verbally and in writing.

3. Proficient Learners

Graduates of HCJH are expected to be proficient learners who . . .

- a) demonstrate grade appropriate skills in reading, writing, and mathematics.
- b) have effective work habits and study skills.
- c) are self-directed and able to produce cooperatively and independently.
- d) can utilize technology.
- e) have a firm grasp of scripture and are able to apply it to life situations.

4. Personal Responsibility

Graduates of HCJH are expected to be responsible individuals who . . .

- a) show patriotism through respect for flag, country, leaders and laws.
- b) demonstrate self-control based on biblical standards.
- c) exhibit respect for others.
- d) accept the consequences and benefits of their actions.
- e) are aware of career opportunities.
- f) practice goal setting with a biblical perspective.
- g) are involved in serving the community.
- h) have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
- i) have the tools to share their faith.
- j) demonstrate an urgency to share their faith.

5. Problem Solvers

Graduates of HCJH are expected to be perceptive thinkers and problem solvers who . . .

- a) evaluate current topics using a biblical perspective.
- b) use available technology to obtain, access and integrate relevant information.
- c) think analytically and creatively.
- d) are well-informed and open-minded.
- e) apply academic learning to life.

6. Well-Rounded

Graduates of HCJH are expected to be well-rounded individuals who . . .

- a) have been exposed to a variety of elective opportunities and experiences.
- b) are challenged beyond academics through a variety of extracurricular activities.
- c) lead lives that are balanced intellectually, spiritually, physically and emotionally.
- d) develop an appreciation for teamwork during school activities.
- e) understand God's involvement in every area of their lives.