

FORM 401

SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR A PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE CURRICULUM

Fern Ridge School District

PROPOSAL IDENTIFICATION: Comic Books and Graphic Novel Storytelling

INITIATOR: _____

1. Submitted to: _____ Date: _____
(Curriculum Associate)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

2. Submitted to: Oliver Johnson Date: 4-9-26
(Supervising Administrator)

Signature: [Signature] Date: _____

3. Submitted to: Michelle Marshall Date: 4/14/26
(Curriculum Council Chairperson)

Recommendations of the Curriculum Council: Approved pending Supt. & Board approval

Signature: Michelle Marshall Date: 4/14/26

4. Submitted to: _____
(Superintendent)

Final action taken: _____ Implementation as submitted is authorized
_____ Implementation with specified modification is authorized
_____ Implementation is not authorized

Explanation: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Proposed Elective: Comics & Graphic Novel Storytelling

Instructor: Garren Piccolo

Length: One Semester (50 minutes daily except on Wednesday's)

Course Overview

Comics & Graphic Novel Storytelling is a semester-long elective in which students explore comics as a literary and artistic medium. Students will analyze graphic novels, examine how visual and written elements work together to communicate meaning, and create their own original comic projects.

The course integrates reading comprehension, narrative writing, visual literacy, and creative expression. Students of all artistic ability levels are supported, with emphasis placed on storytelling clarity, revision, and creative growth.

Scope & Sequence (18 Weeks)

Unit 1: The Power of Comics (Weeks 1–3)

- What defines comics as sequential art
- Panels, gutters, pacing, and visual flow
- Showing vs. telling
- Creating short silent comics

Unit 2: History & Genres of Comics (Weeks 4–6)

- Early comic strips and superhero era

- Manga and global influences
- Modern graphic novels
- Genre exploration (memoir, fantasy, sci-fi, slice-of-life)
- Mini research activity on comic creators or movements

Unit 3: Writing for Comics (Weeks 7–9)

- Narrative structure (beginning, middle, end)
- Conflict and character development
- Dialogue and narration
- Script writing format
- Thumbnail storyboarding

Unit 4: Visual Storytelling Techniques (Weeks 10–13)

- Panel composition and layout
- Facial expression and body language
- Perspective and “camera angles”
- Lettering and speech bubbles
- Drafting and revising comic pages

Unit 5: Final Project & Publication (Weeks 14–18)

- Development of an original comic (6–10 pages or strip series)
- Peer critique and revision
- Final inking/formatting

- Optional class anthology or school display
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Standards Alignment (Prioritized Content Standards)

This elective supports key Oregon middle school standards in English Language Arts and Visual Arts.

English Language Arts (Oregon ELA Standards – Grade 7)

- **Reading Literature (RL.7.1, RL.7.3, RL.7.5)**
Analyze textual evidence, character development, and structure.
- **Writing (W.7.3, W.7.4, W.7.5)**
Write narratives with clear structure, develop real or imagined experiences, revise writing with peer feedback.
- **Speaking & Listening (SL.7.1)**
Engage effectively in collaborative discussions and peer critiques.
- **Language (L.7.1–3)**
Demonstrate command of conventions in dialogue and narrative writing.

Visual Arts (Oregon Arts Standards – Middle School)

- **Creating**
Generate and conceptualize artistic ideas and work.
- **Presenting**
Develop and refine artistic techniques and work for presentation.
- **Responding**
Analyze and interpret artistic works.
- **Connecting**
Relate artistic ideas to personal meaning and cultural context.

Course Goals

Students will:

- Understand how comics communicate meaning through sequential art.
- Analyze graphic novels for theme, character development, and structure.
- Develop script writing and storyboarding skills.
- Apply visual storytelling techniques in original work.
- Revise creative projects using structured peer feedback.
- Produce a completed original comic project.

Course Syllabus Overview

Grading Components:

- Participation & Engagement – 25%
- Skill-Building Assignments – 25%
- Script Drafts & Revisions – 20%
- Peer Critique Participation – 10%
- Final Comic Project – 20%

Assessment prioritizes effort, creativity, revision, and clarity of storytelling over artistic perfection.

Materials & Budget

Funds will be used for:

- Drawing paper and copy paper
- Fine-tip black pens and pencils
- Printing of final drafts
- Optional class anthology printing

No specialized equipment is required.
