

# Curriculum Corner

Phone: 781-934-7604

email: [lhunter@duxbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:lhunter@duxbury.k12.ma.us)

Twitter: DuxAsstSuper

## *Academic Merit: Assessments21*

During the month of September and again in the spring, all students in middle and high school will participate in a new assessment process. Assessments21 is an online literacy tool available to us through a company called Academic Merit. Our goal is to gather data relative to both reading comprehension and written expression. As a result of recent curriculum changes, literacy instruction is considered essential not only within English Language Arts classes but also across the content subjects of Math, Science, Social Studies, etc.

In Assessments21, the students read grade level text selections from either English Language Arts or Social Studies. Students respond to reading comprehension questions and then write an essay based on a question pertaining to the given text. The list to the right includes the titles of each grade level's reading passage. Results of the multiple choice comprehension questions are immediate. Our own teachers read and score the essays based on a set of given criteria.

Assessments21 provides a set of rubrics that outline performance levels in the areas of: Controlling Ideas, Organization, Development, Diction and Conventions. You can find the rubrics through the [English Department's web page](#). As the year progresses, we will discuss the use of these rubrics as school-wide tools.

These assessments do not receive letter grades per se. The faculty will utilize the data to inform literacy instruction as well as to assess student growth between the fall and spring as well as year to year. These assessments also nicely parallel the expectations of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, meeting our requirements to integrate certain types of curriculum assessments.

We look forward to sharing more of this process with you in the future.

## *Texts*



Fall Assessments

Gr 6 Fiction (English)

Gr 7 Fiction (English)

Gr 8 Nonfiction  
(Social Studies)Gr 9 Nonfiction  
(Social Studies)

Gr 10 Fiction (English)

Gr 11 Nonfiction  
(Social Studies)

Gr 12 Fiction (English)