

## Rationale for Essential Academic Vocabulary

At Carson Middle School, we believe that vocabulary instruction is one of the essential elements of literacy development for all students. We have adopted a systematic approach to vocabulary instruction, including the direct instruction of academic vocabulary.

In order to guarantee that all students are instructed on the terms that are critical to the understanding of academic content, a list of *Essential Terms* has been constructed for each core (Math, Science, English, Social Studies) class.

These essential terms are directly taught to students as they appear in the course of study. Students are exposed to the essential academic vocabulary multiple times. Working with this vocabulary reinforces students' knowledge of the terms and leads to further depth of understanding.

Finally, students are held accountable for their learning. They will be assessed throughout the year to determine whether or not they have mastered these terms. A final test will be administered at the end of the school year.

Parents, you can help your students by reinforcing the use of these words.

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