

## Rationale

Language study cultivates the student's ability to communicate in multiple contexts through written, oral, and multi-media genres. Literary study develops the student's vocabulary as well as their written and oral communication abilities. Eighth Grade English Language Arts will foster critical reading and writing skills and expand the student's world views.

## Course Description

The student in 8th Grade Language Arts will develop writing, speaking, and reading skills to prepare them for success in high school. The student will write on a regular basis, with an emphasis on responding to peers and to texts, and they will develop strong academic practices and strategies, including analyzing texts, citing sources, and editing their work, as well as discussion, presentation, and collaboration. The student will develop strong analytical and reading strategies with both literary and non-fiction texts. The student will respond to literature and other texts in class discussion, peer groups, and through writing as well as informal and formal presentations.

## Course Objectives

1. The student will write a minimum of three polished, multi-paragraph essays over the course of the year, following a writing process that includes revision and editing for standard English usage; genres will include expository, argumentative, and narrative writing.
2. The student will write informally on a weekly basis, analyzing and responding to texts, and incorporate evidence from texts.
3. The student will follow a style guide to format essays and projects and to cite sources while avoiding plagiarism.
4. The student will participate in informal discussions, presentations, peer feedback, or collaborative groups on a daily basis.
5. The student will plan and present formally a minimum of one time over the course of the year with an emphasis on developing presentation skills (such as eye contact, tone, volume, pace, articulation, and pronunciation); the presentation may be collaborative or multi-media.
6. The student will complete two polished researched projects, at least one of which will be an essay, distinguishing among and utilizing a minimum of five credible sources.
7. The student will engage monthly in formal and informal research.
8. The student will read, discuss, analyze, and apply literary devices to a minimum of three longer volumes of work, including at least one novel and at least one non-fiction piece, at an appropriate level of text complexity.
9. The student will read extensively in a variety of genres, including short fiction, short non-fiction and informational text and poetry, averaging a minimum of 50 pages of reading per week at an appropriate level of text complexity.
10. The student will write informally on a weekly basis, analyzing and responding to texts, and incorporating evidence from texts.
11. The student will participate in informal discussions, presentation, peer feedback, or collaborative groups on a daily basis.
12. The student will plan and present formally a minimum of one time over the course of the year with an emphasis on developing presentation skills such as eye contact, tone, volume, pace, articulation and pronunciation.
13. The student will engage monthly in formal and informal research.

BOE June 14, 2018