

8th Grade Communication Arts Curriculum

Course Information:

Grade Level: 8th **Length:** 1
Year *Period(s)* Per Day: 1 (46 Minutes)

Description: Communication Arts at the 8th grade level will cover a variety of fundamental language skills. The primary goal of this class is to provide students with learning opportunities in order to acquire the skills necessary to attain the degree of competency needed in communication arts which meet the curriculum requirements of the State of Montana and Content Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy. Students will work toward mastery on a combination of skills including systematic academic vocabulary development, grammar, reading, writing, listening, and speaking. ^[P]_[SEP]

ESSENTIAL UNDERSTANDING:

The eighth grade curriculum is designed to focus but not limited to five critical areas.

- (1) Conventions of Standard English
- (2) Knowledge of Language
- (3) Vocabulary Acquisition and Use
- (4) Speaking and Listening
- (5) Writing

Course Objectives:

1. Mechanics/Conventions
2. Usage
3. Grammar
4. Writing
5. Literature
6. Poetry
7. Vocabulary

Student Objectives

1. Students will correctly understand and use the conventions of English grammar and usage.
2. Students will correctly use the conventions of English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.
3. Students will apply their knowledge of language in different contexts.
4. Students will understand the meaning of grade level appropriate words and phrases.
5. Students will understand figurative language, word relationships, and slight differences in word meanings.
6. Students will learn and use grade appropriate vocabulary and phrases.
7. Students will actively participate in a variety of discussions.
8. Students will analyze the purposes of and reasons for presenting information in different media formats.
9. Students will evaluate a speaker's argument and identify any false reasoning or evidence.
10. Students will organize and present information to your listeners in a logical sequence and engaging style that is appropriate to their task and audience.
11. Students will use digital media to enhance and add interest to presentations.
12. Students will adapt the formality of their speech appropriately.
13. Students will write and develop arguments with clear reasons and strong evidence.
14. Students will write clear, well organized, and thoughtful informative and explanatory texts.
15. Students will write clear, well structured, detailed narrative texts.
16. Students will produce writing that is appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience for whom you are writing.
17. Students will help from peers and adults, revise and refine their writing to address what is most important for their purpose and audience.
18. Students will use technology to produce and publish their writing and present the relationship between information and ideas with others.
19. Students will conduct short research projects to answer a question using multiple sources and generating topic for further research.
20. Students will effectively conduct searches to gather information from different sources and assess the strength of each source, following a standard format for citation.
21. Students will paraphrase, summarize, quote, and cite primary and secondary sources to support your analysis, reflection, and research.
22. Students will write for many different purposes and audiences both over short and extended periods of time.

Pacing Montana Common Core Standard (Or other pertinent National content standard/s)

EX:

Semester 1

Unit 1 - Mechanics/Conventions

- L.8.1, L.8.1(a), L.8.1(b), L.8.1(c),
- L.8.2, L.8.2(a), L.8.2(b)

Unit 2- Usage

- L.8.3, L.8.3(a)

Unit 4 - Writing (Narrative/Expository)*

- W.8.3, W.8.3(a), W.8.3(b), W.8.3(c), W.8.3(d), W.8.3(e)

Unit 5 - Literature/Poetry

- RL.8.3, RL.8.4, RL.8.5, RL.8.6

Unit 7 - Vocabulary

- L.8.4, L.8.4(a), L.8.4(b), L.8.4(c), L.8.4(d),
- L.8.5, L.8.5(a), L.8.5(b), L.8.5(c)
- L.8.6.

Semester 2

Unit 1 - Mechanics/Conventions

- L.8.1, L.8.1(a), L.8.1(b), L.8.1(c),
- L.8.2, L.8.2(a), L.8.2(b)

Unit 4 - Writing (Argumentative)*

- W.8.1, W.8.1(a), W.8.1(b), W.8.1(c), W.8.1(d), W.8.1(e)

Unit 5 - Literature/Poetry

- RL.8.3, RL.8.4, RL.8.5, RL.8.6

Unit 6 - Writing (Informative)*

- W.8.2, W.8.2(a), W.8.2(b), W.8.2(c), W.8.2(d), W.8.2(e), W.8.2(f)

Unit 7 - Vocabulary

- L.8.4, L.8.4(a), L.8.4(b), L.8.4(c), L.8.4(d),
- L.8.5, L.8.5(a), L.8.5(b), L.8.5(c)
- L.8.6

*Writing Production applied to Informative, Argumentative, and Narrative sections

- W.8.4, W.8.5, W.8.6, W.8.7, W.8.8, W.8.9, W.8.9(a), W.8.9(b) W.8.10

Timeline - Approximate length to teach unit

Semester 1

Unit 1 - Mechanics/Conventions

- 5 Weeks

Unit 2- Usage

- 4 Weeks

Unit 4 - Writing (Narrative/Expository)

- 3 Weeks

Unit 5 - Literature/Poetry

- 2 Weeks

Unit 7 - Vocabulary

- 4 Weeks

Semester 2

Unit 1 - Mechanics/Conventions

- 5 Weeks

Unit 4 - Writing (Argumentative)

- 4 Weeks

Unit 5 - Literature/Poetry

- 2 Weeks

Unit 6 - Writing (Informative)

- 3 Weeks

Unit 7 - Vocabulary

- 4 Weeks

Montana Content Standards

MCSS ELA Grade 8

<http://montanateach.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/MCS-ELA-8th.pdf>

Resources

Prentice Hall - Writing Coach Text & Literature Text

Wordly Wise

Step-Up to Writing

Silver Burdett-Ginn Text

- *Z for Zachariah* O'Brien
- *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* Bech

- *I Heard the Owl Call My Name* Craven
- *Across Five Aprils* Hunt
- *I Will Fight No More Forever* Beale
- *Slave Dancer* Fox
- *Johnny Tremain* Forbes
- *The Endless Steppe* Hautzig
- *Yesterday's Daughter* Calvert
- *John F. Kennedy* Selfridge
- *The Hound of the Baskervilles* Doyle
- *The Hobbit* Tolkien
- *Beowulf* Nye
- *The Outsiders* Hinton, S.E.
- *Summer of My German Soldier* Greene, Bette
- *The Devil's Arithmetic* Yolen, Jane
- *Phineas Gage* Fleischman
- *Pigman* Zindel, Paul
- *A Day No Pigs Would Die* Peck, Robert Newton
- *The Book Thief* Zusak