

# **The Saints Academy**

## **ELA Curriculum**

### **GRADE EIGHT: LANGUAGE ARTS**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the grade eight language arts curriculum is to further develop life-long readers through personal growth in the skills of independent readers who can communicate effectively in both written and oral language. The program explores high-quality, appealing, traditional and contemporary literary selections both in the literature text and in notable young adult literature.

#### **LITERATURE/READING**

The student will:

- Hone the four levels of comprehension: the personal response, the literal, the interpretive, and the applied
- Understand literary concepts
- Appreciate and apply writer's techniques
- Apply selected writer's techniques to their own writing
- Apply critical reading skills to all genre of literature
- Use literature as a springboard for creative, analytical, or process-oriented writing
- Develop a vocabulary and understanding of literary terms
- Practice prewriting, drafting, revising, proofreading and publishing

#### **SPEAKING/LISTENING**

The student will:

- Prepare and present powerpoint presentations
- Present original poetry to appropriate music
- Listen to selections on SmartBoard
- Prepare and present book reviews
- Use the internet to communicate
- Understand that poetry reflects the history, society, values and moral codes of the time period in which it was written as well as the poet's life and aesthetics.
- Understand poet's use of well chosen words, formats, poetic techniques, imagery, sound devices, figurative language, selected diction, voice, syntax, and register help the reader appreciate the emotions, tone and message of the work.
- Use poetic and analytical technique to analyze, interpret, understand and explain a given work of poetry.
- Interpretation of a poem and use the poem and contextual evidence to support your
- Prepare and present for judging a project that involves research, using Noodletools, work cited page, in text citation, and preparation of a 3-D model that supports and complements the project.

#### **LANGUAGE MECHANICS/GRAMMAR/CORRECT USAGE**

The student will:

- Identify sentences and sentence fragments
- Use subjects and predicates correctly

- Identify nouns
- Understand and use correctly case and syntax
- Understand and use correctly verbs and verb tense
- Understand the purpose and correct usage of pronouns
- Understand and use adjectives and adverbs correctly
- Identify prepositions, conjunctions and interjections
- Know and use all rules of punctuation and capitalization

## **SPELLING/VOCABULARY**

The student will:

- Become familiar with words, definitions and sentences that place words in context
- Review words that will appear in the lesson
- Self assess the understanding of each word's meaning
- Create a complete sentence by matching word with the correct definition
- Start to embed words and meaning in memory
- Read sentences that incorporate phrases that define words
- Replace phrases and sentences with the words they define
- Consider words in specific context
- Use word knowledge built in previous activities to answer questions that depend on understanding word meanings in specific context
- Explore grammar concepts, meaningful word parts, Greek and Latin roots and homophones
- Complete activities that deepen and extend word knowledge
- Read original passages that contain vocabulary words in context
- Answer open-response comprehension questions
- Demonstrate comprehension of the text and mastery of the words they have learned
- Use Wordly Wise 3000 study sets in Quizlet to practice learning words and definitions
- Test themselves on their knowledge
- Play motivating games to reinforce long term retention of words

## **Teaching Strategies**

- Motivation through prior knowledge
- Purpose setting questions
- Thematic focus
- Modeling of active reading skills: ask questions, summarize, predict, make connections
- Clarification and discussion
- Focus on writer's techniques ( John Collins writing)
- Focus on literary concept
- Group literature response
- Writing workshops
- Graphic organizers
- Small/whole group instruction

## **Assessments**

- Tests, teacher-created and text-created
- Written and oral work, group or individual
- Multimedia projects and presentations
- FCA's - John Collins Writing Program
- MAP testing

## **Materials and Resources**

- Internet
- Prentice Hall Literature and Literacy
- Pearson Successnet
- Wordly Wise
- Variety of grammar resources. IE - Grammar Bytes, Holt Elements of Language etc.
- Chromebooks
- Trade books to supplement across the genres of young adult literature
- Online Journals - CNN, Newsela
- Smartboard
- NoodleTools
- Google Classroom and Google Docs