

## PHILOSOPHY OF READING PROGRAM

The reading program is part of an integrated English language arts program that includes reading, writing, listening and speaking.

The English language arts program provides for the systematic development of the skills, abilities, understandings, and attitudes that are critical to a sustained growth in literacy development in each of our students. The ultimate measure of its success is the degree to which the student effectively turns to the language arts for information, pleasure, and self-realization.

In the English language arts program, students:

- receive appropriate early literacy instruction based upon their individual needs
- have access to a diverse selection of books and other reading material through their classroom and school libraries that represents all students enrolled in the district.
- read whole texts in their original versions
- write about and discuss works they have read
- read and respond to texts by authors of diverse backgrounds
- read and write different kinds of texts for different purposes and audiences from a variety of disciplines and cultures
- learn grammar, word usage, and mechanics
- have access to supplemental instruction from professionals specifically prepared to teach reading

An effective English language arts program consists of varied strands and strategies in promoting the development of able, enthusiastic, and resourceful lifetime readers and writers. A typical classroom at the middle grades finds time for reading and writing activities that include:

- developmental basic reading and writing activities
- shared experiences in the literature program
- individual reading in self-selected library books and related activities
- access to a wide variety of reading material that appeal to students' interests through the classroom and school libraries that represent diverse backgrounds and are multi-cultural
- instruction that builds the skill and desire to read and write about increasingly complex materials

### **Philosophy of Reading Program (Continued)**

The most effective reading and writing programs, especially in terms of the development of lifetime language competencies, are integrated into a total language arts program that is pre-planned and systematic while at the same time relevant for and adapted to the unique needs of individual students and classrooms.

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