

## Rationale

The Literature Essentials curriculum is designed to focus on the reading process to provide the learner with exposure to the elements of literature. This program will also provide the learner with instructional strategies to increase fluency, word recognition, and comprehension in order to improve overall reading skills. This course promotes skill development necessary for lifelong reading and provides opportunities for the student to read recreationally as well.

## Course Description

This course will explore the essentials of literature by providing students with the necessary skills to read fluently and comprehend across a variety of genres while offering students the opportunity to read and evaluate literature through discussion, observation and writing. The student will study and apply knowledge of basic story structure and demonstrate an understanding through various communication and evaluative processes. This course will focus on the use of research-based instructional strategies targeted for improving overall reading ability while utilizing a variety of instructional materials. Selected objectives will be taught based on students' IEP goals. This course is designed to be a multi-year course for the middle school student requiring intensive strategy instruction in the small group setting.

## Prerequisites

Prerequisite: IEP team recommendation

Open to: 6, 7, 8

## Course Objectives

### READING

1. The student will develop and apply skills and strategies to the reading process with 80% accuracy, as assessed by teacher made tests, compositions, projects, presentations or scoring guides. **Assessed on MAP; Grade 6, 7, 8. (GLE: CA R1C6, R1C7, R1C8)**

The student will:

- apply decoding strategies to problem-solve unknown words
- read grade-level instructional level text
- apply strategies to develop vocabulary through text
- apply pre-reading strategies to aid comprehension
- use reading strategies while reading
- apply post-reading skills to comprehend and interpret text
- compare, contrast, and analyze connections in texts

2. The student will develop and apply skills and strategies to comprehend, analyze, and evaluate fiction, poetry, and drama from a variety of cultures and times with 80% accuracy as assessed by teacher made tests, compositions, projects, presentations or scoring guides. **Assessed on MAP; Grade 6, 7, 8. (GLE: CA 6, Rdg-2; CA 2, 3; 1.5, 1.6, 2.4, 3.4, 3.5, 3.7)**

The student will:

- Locate, interpret, apply, and recognize text features
- Identify and explain figurative language in poetry and prose, including **onomatopoeia** and alliteration
- Use details from text to analyze the influence of setting on characters
- Explain and understand literary elements, including **plot, point of view, and mood**
- Explain cause and effect
- Identify problem-solving processes of characters and the effectiveness of solutions

3. The student will develop and apply skills and strategies to comprehend, analyze, and evaluate nonfiction texts from a variety of cultures and times with 80% accuracy as assessed by teacher made tests, compositions, projects, presentations or scoring guides. **Assessed on MAP; Grade 6, 7, 8. (GLE: CA 6, Rdg-3; CA 3; 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 2.4, 3.5, 3.6)**

The student will:

- Analyze text features in newspapers and magazines to clarify meaning
- Identify and explain figurative language in nonfiction texts, including **onomatopoeia** and alliteration
- Use details from the text(s) to make predictions and inferences, paraphrase the author's stated ideas, evaluate the accuracy of the information, identify and interpret author's purpose, slant, and bias, and respond to two or more sources and be able to sequence

## Literature Essentials - Grades 6-8

Mehlville School District  
Special Education  
Grades 6 - 8, Duration 1 Year

events, compare and contrast details, and follow cause and effect  
• Read and follow multi-step directions to complete a **complex task**

4. The student will relate literature, draw conclusions, and make comparisons to life experiences including researching career and academic options with 80% accuracy. **Assessed on MAP, grade 6, 7, 8. (CA1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7; FA5; SS6; 1.8,1.9,1.10)**

5. The student will apply communication strategies in identifying and stating problems and solutions, asking questions to determine causes of problems, collecting information to determine its reliability, listening and responding politely to others, focusing on the important aspects of the problem, generating and summarizing possible problems and solutions, developing a solution plan, and predicting results of proposed solutions in the content area with 80% accuracy. **Assessed on MAP, grade 6, 7, 8. (CA1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7; FA5; MA3; SS7; 1.2, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8)**

6. The student will analyze and evaluate characters' problem-solving strategies in literature and film by suggesting alternate solutions to problems faced, comparing problems in literature to own life, comparing and contrasting how culture and social differences might impact problems and solutions, as well as recognizing similarities and differences with new and previously read or viewed texts with 80% accuracy. **Assessed on MAP, grade 6, 7, 8. (CA2, 3, 5, 7; FA1, 5; SS5; 3.2, 3.4)**

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