Syllabus
for
7th and 8th Grade
English/Language Arts

2025-2026

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Writing Content Syllabus

General Components of All Writing: Students will

- Plan a first draft by selecting a genre appropriate for a particular topic, purpose, and audience using a range of strategies such as discussion, background reading, and personal interests
- Develop drafts into a focused, structured, and coherent piece of writing by intentional organization and specific development of ideas
- Revise drafts for clarity, development, organization, style, word choice, and sentence variety
- Edit drafts using standard English conventions, including writing complete complex sentences following the rules of grammar, usage, and mechanics
- Publish written work for appropriate audiences

Students will complete writing assignments in the following genres:

- Poetry
- Informational Essay
- Comparison/Contrast Essay
- Multimodal Presentation
- Argumentative Essay
- Personal Narrative
- Research Report
- Short Story

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics: Students will study the following in order to use words correctly.

- Parts of Speech
- Phrases: adjective, adverb, infinitive, gerund, participial, and appositive
- Adjective and adverb clauses and S, Cd, CX, and CdCX sentences
- Using verbs, pronouns, modifiers, and S/V and P/A agreement
- Using punctuation and capitalization correctly
- Using a dictionary to assist with spelling and a thesaurus for specific word choice

Vocabulary: Students will study the following so that they can improve their reading and writing skills

- Basic word roots
- Words commonly found on the SAT

Syllabus for 8th grade

The following is **in addition** to the writing content although the grammar, usage, and mechanics information is presented as a review and is not as in-depth.

Reading: Students will

- Adjust the rate of reading based on reading material (teacher or student selected) and will read independently for a sustained period of time and establish purpose for reading assigned and self-selected texts
- Generate questions about text before, during, and after reading to deepen understanding and gain information
- Make, correct, or confirm predictions using text features, characteristics of genre, and structures
- Create mental images to deepen understanding
- Make connections to personal experiences, ideas in other text, and society
- Make inferences and use evidence to support understanding
- Evaluate details read to determine key ideas and synthesize information to create new understanding
- Monitor comprehension and make adjustments such as re-reading, using background knowledge, asking questions, and annotating when understanding breaks down

Responding to reading: Students will
- Describe personal connections to a variety of sources, including self-selected texts
- Write responses that demonstrate understanding of texts, including comparing sources within/across genres
- Use text evidence to support an appropriate response
- Paraphrase and summarize texts in ways that maintain meaning and logical order
- Interact with sources in meaningful ways such as note taking, annotating, free writing, or illustrating
- Respond using newly acquired vocabulary as appropriate
- Discuss and write about the explicit or implicit meaning of text
- Respond orally or in writing with appropriate register, vocabulary, tone, and voice
- Reflect on and adjust responses as new evidence is presented
- Defend or challenge the author's claims using relevant text evidence

Analysis: Students will
- Analyze how themes are developed through the interaction of characters and events
- Analyze how characters' motivations and behaviors influence events and resolution of the conflict
- Analyze non-linear plot development such as flashbacks, foreshadowing, subplots, and parallel plot structures and compare it to a linear plot development
- Explain how the setting influences the values and beliefs of characters
- Demonstrate knowledge of literary genres such as realistic fiction, adventure stories, historical fiction, mysteries, humor, fantasy, science fiction, and short stories
- Analyze the effect of graphical elements such as punctuation and line length in poems across a variety of poetic forms such as epic, lyric, and humorous poetry
- Analyze how playwrights develop dramatic action through the use of acts and scenes
- Analyze characteristics and structural elements of informational texts
- Analyze characteristics and structures of argumentative text by identifying claim, counter argument and audience
- Analyze characteristics of multimodal and digital texts
- Explain the author's purpose and message within a text and how text contributes to author's purpose
- Analyze the author's use of print and graphic features to achieve specific purposes
- Describe how the author's use of figurative language such as extended metaphor achieves specific purposes
- Identify and analyze the use of literary devices, including multiple points of view and irony
- Analyze how the author's use of language contributes to the mood, voice, and tone
- Explain the purpose of rhetorical devices such as analogy and juxtaposition and of logical fallacies such as bandwagon appeals and circular reasoning