Grade Eight

The eighth-grade student will learn and apply interviewing techniques developing and delivering oral presentations in groups and individually. The student will demonstrate correct use of language, spelling, and mechanics by applying grammatical conventions in writing and speaking. Students will evaluate, analyze, develop, and produce media messages. The student will plan, draft, revise, and edit writing, with emphasis on exposition and persuasion. The student will apply reading and writing skills in all subjects, as well as respond critically to literature. The student will continue development of vocabulary, with attention to connotations and figurative language. The student will continue to develop an appreciation for literary genres through a study of a wide variety of selections. The student will describe themes, make inferences, interpret cause and effect relationships, differentiate between fact and opinion, and draw conclusions from a variety of texts.

Communication: Speaking, Listening, Media Literacy

8.1 The student will use interviewing techniques to gain information.

a) Prepare and ask relevant questions for the interview.
b) Make notes of responses.
c) Compile, accurately report, and publish responses.
d) Evaluate the effectiveness of the interview.

8.2 The student will develop and deliver oral presentations in groups and individually.

a) Choose topic and purpose appropriate to the audience.
b) Choose vocabulary and tone appropriate to the audience, topic, and purpose.
c) Use appropriate verbal and nonverbal presentation skills.
d) Respond to audience questions and comments.
e) Differentiate between standard English and informal language.
f) Critique oral presentations.
g) Assume shared responsibility for collaborative work.
h) Use a variety of strategies to listen actively.

8.3 The student will analyze, develop, and produce creative or informational media messages.

a) Evaluate the persuasive/informational technique being used in nonprint media including television, radio, video, and Internet.
b) Examine how values and viewpoints are included or excluded and how the media can influence beliefs, behaviors, and interpretations.
c) Use media and visual literacy skills to create products that express new understandings.
d) Evaluate sources for relationships between intent and factual content.

Reading

8.4 The student will apply knowledge of word origins, analogies, and figurative language to extend vocabulary development within authentic texts.

a) Identify and analyze an author's use of figurative language.
b) Use context, structure, and connotations to determine meaning and differentiate among multiple meanings of words and phrases.
c) Use roots, affixes, cognates, synonyms, and antonyms to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words and technical vocabulary.
d) Use dictionaries, thesauruses, and glossaries to determine definition, pronunciation, etymology, spelling, and usage of words.
e) Discriminate between connotative and denotative meanings and interpret the connotation.
f) Extend general and specialized vocabulary through speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

8.5 The student will read and analyze a variety of fictional texts, narrative nonfiction, and poetry.

a) Explain the use of symbols and figurative language.
b) Make inferences and draw conclusions based on explicit and implied information using evidence from text as support.
c) Explain how authors use characters, conflict, point of view, voice, and tone to create meaning.
d) Understand the author's use of conventional elements and characteristics within a variety of genres.
e) Compare and contrast the author's use of word choice, dialogue, form, rhyme, rhythm, and voice in different texts.
f) Compare and contrast authors' styles.
g) Identify and ask questions that clarify various viewpoints.
h) Identify the main idea.
i) Summarize text relating supporting details.
j) Identify an author's organizational pattern using textual clues, such as transitional words and phrases.
k) Identify cause and effect relationships.
l) Use prior and background knowledge as a context for new learning.
m) Use reading strategies to monitor comprehension throughout the reading process.

8.6 The student will read, comprehend, and analyze a variety of nonfiction texts.

a) Draw on background knowledge and knowledge of text structure to understand selections.
b) Make inferences and draw conclusions based on explicit and implied information using evidence from text as support.
c) Analyze the author's qualifications, viewpoint, and impact.
d) Analyze the author's use of text structure and word choice.
e) Analyze details for relevance and accuracy.
f) Differentiate between fact and opinion.
g) Identify the main idea.
h) Summarize the text identifying supporting details.
i) Identify an author's organizational pattern using textual clues, such as transitional words and phrases.
j) Identify cause and effect relationships.
k) Evaluate, organize, and synthesize information for use in written and oral formats.
l) Use reading strategies to monitor comprehension throughout the reading process.

Writing

8.7 The student will write in a variety of forms, including narration, exposition, persuasion, and informational.

a) Identify intended audience.
b) Use prewriting strategies to generate and organize ideas.
c) Distinguish between a thesis statement and a topic sentence.
d) Organize details to elaborate the central idea and provide unity.
e) Select specific vocabulary and information for audience and purpose.
f) Use interview quotations as evidence.
g) Revise writing for clarity of content, word choice, sentence variety, and transitions among paragraphs.
h) Use computer technology to plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish writing.

8.8 The student will edit writing for correct grammar, capitalization, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, and paragraphing.

a) Use a variety of graphic organizers, including sentence diagrams, to analyze and improve sentence formation and paragraph structure.
b) Use and punctuate correctly varied sentence structures to include conjunctions and transition words.
c) Choose the correct case and number for pronouns in prepositional phrases with compound objects.
d) Maintain consistent verb tense across paragraphs.
e) Use comparative and superlative degrees in adverbs and adjectives.
f) Use quotation marks with dialogue and direct quotations.
g) Use correct spelling for frequently used words.

Research

8.9 The student will apply knowledge of appropriate reference materials to produce a research product.

a) Collect and synthesize information from multiple sources including online, print and media.
b) Evaluate the validity and authenticity of texts.
c) Use technology as a tool to research, organize, evaluate, and communicate information.
d) Make sense of information gathered from diverse sources by identifying misconceptions,
main and supporting ideas, conflicting information, point of view or bias.
e) Cite primary and secondary sources using Modern Language Association (MLA) or American Psychological Association (APA) style.
f) Publish findings and respond to feedback.
g) Define the meaning and consequences of plagiarism and follow ethical and legal guidelines for gathering and using information.