Driscoll ISD 2026–2027

8th Grade English Language Arts & Reading

Course Description

Welcome to 8th Grade English Language Arts & Reading! This course is designed to develop students into confident, independent readers, thoughtful thinkers, and effective writers. Students will study a variety of literary and informational texts while strengthening skills aligned with the **Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)** and preparing for the **STAAR ELA assessment**.

Through the **Amplify ELA curriculum**, students will analyze complex texts, participate in discussions, build academic vocabulary, write evidence-based responses, and develop their ability to communicate ideas clearly and effectively.

Semester 1: July 22 – December 18, 2026

1st Quarter Topics	2nd Quarter Topics
Unit 8A – Perspectives & Narratives **Students will explore how authors use different perspectives and narrative techniques to tell stories and communicate ideas.** **Students will:** • **Analyze point of view and perspective.** • **Examine how perspective influences a narrative.** • **Analyze character development.** • **Analyze plot and narrative structure.** • **Examine how setting affects a story.** • **Identify and analyze themes.** • **Analyze an author's use of language and literary techniques.** • **Compare perspectives across texts.** • **Use textual evidence to support analysis.** • **Write narrative and analytical responses.**	**Unit 8C – Science & Science Fiction** **Students will explore the relationship between scientific ideas and literature while examining how authors use science fiction to explore possibilities, questions, and consequences.** **Students will:** • **Analyze characteristics of science fiction.** • **Determine theme and central idea.** • **Analyze author's purpose.** • **Examine how authors develop fictional worlds.** • **Analyze how scientific concepts influence a text.** • **Compare fiction with informational texts.** • **Analyze cause-and-effect relationships.** • **Examine how technology affects characters and society.** • **Evaluate claims and supporting evidence.**

Unit 8E – Holocaust: Memory & Meaning **Students will examine literature and informational texts related to the Holocaust, focusing on memory, perspective, historical context, and the ways individuals and societies remember difficult events.** **Students will:** • **Analyze historical and cultural context.** • **Examine firsthand and secondhand accounts.** • **Analyze author's perspective and purpose.** • **Analyze how individuals respond to historical events.** • **Compare perspectives across multiple texts.** • **Evaluate the impact of word choice and author's craft.** • **Analyze theme and central ideas.** • **Distinguish between facts, opinions, and interpretations.** • **Use relevant evidence from multiple sources.** • **Write evidence-based analytical responses.**	• **Write analytical and evidence-based responses.** **Unit 8D – Shakespeare's** Romeo.and. Juliet **Students will study William Shakespeare's** Romeo.and.Juliet **while developing an understanding of drama, characterization, conflict, theme, figurative language, and Shakespearean language.** **Students will:** • **Analyze characters and character development.** • **Analyze internal and external conflicts.** • **Examine plot and dramatic structure.** • **Analyze themes such as love, conflict, loyalty, and fate.** • **Analyze Shakespeare's use of language.** • **Interpret figurative language and symbolism.** • **Analyze dialogue and its effect on characterization.** • **Examine how scenes contribute to the development of the plot.** • **Compare Shakespearean language with modern English.** • **Use textual evidence to support interpretations.** • **Write literary analysis responses.**

*subject to change

Semester 2: January 6 – May 21, 2027

3rd Quarter Topics	4th Quarter Topics
• Informational text analysis • Main idea and supporting details • Text structure • Author's purpose • Central idea • Claims and evidence • Comparing and contrasting texts • Vocabulary development • Research skills • Evidence-based writing • Grammar and conventions	• Argumentative writing • Claims and counterclaims • Reasons and evidence • Author's purpose and rhetorical techniques • Research-based writing • Primary and secondary sources • Credible sources • Citing sources • Comparing multiple texts • Research presentations • Review and application of 6th Grade ELAR skills