

## Middle School: English Language Arts Curriculum Overview

### GRADE 6

We will be exploring a range of reading, including literature (novels and short stories), informational text, drama, and poetry. As we read these different works, we will practice skills in understanding and analyzing the works. Students will read text closely to understand not only plot and character development but also key ideas and details. They will also be able to cite the text to support inferences and conclusions. We will be discovering themes and how they are developed in the literature we read. As students hone their grasp of craft and structure, they will study the impact and meaning of what they read, including author's purpose, word and phrase choice, and point of view.

Textbook: Literature Grade 6, Holt McDougal; assigned class novels

### GRADE 7 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

We will review and study grammar, punctuation rules, and capitalization. Students will apply what they learn to their writing and speaking skills. It is important to know the different writing forms, and to that end, the students will learn the following essay types: research, compare/contrast, persuasive personal narrative, five-paragraph, and descriptive.

To meet tomorrow's challenges, students need to be strong readers, writers, and speakers. An important 7th Grade Minnesota Standard is for students to be able to write routinely over extended periods of time. We will work on this skill during a scheduled, specific time every day that is set aside for writing. Students will write in their notebook for a varying amount of time each day. Some days there will be a prompt for students to respond to; at other times, the students will have their choice of topic.

We will read a variety of genres to enhance the student's ability to infer, interpret, and assess different types of novels. We will also have a unit focusing on poetry. Students will learn, read, and write different types of poems throughout this unit. A few of the books we will read throughout the year are:

- *Wonder* by: R.J. Palacio
- *The Giver* by: Lois Lowry
- *Tangerine* by: Christine Mangan

Textbooks: Voyages Language Arts and The Language of Literature

### GRADE 8 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

The focus of eighth grade ELA is to prepare students for high school. We will build on the skills learned in seventh grade as well as developing a deeper understanding of grammar, rules of writing, and text analysis. To prepare students for high school, the writing assignments will be more research-based and longer. There will be a main focus for each trimester.

Trimester One: a five-page research paper on a World War II topic

Trimester Two: a deeper understanding of grammar lessons, punctuation, and writing skills.

Trimester Three: writing arguments with proper support, speeches, and debates.

We will once again focus on the Minnesota State Standard of students being able to write routinely over extended periods of time. We will work on this skill through a scheduled, specific time every day for writing. Students will write in their notebook for a varying amount of time each day. Some days there will be a prompt for students to respond to, and at other times, the students will have their choice of topic. Students will be expected to write longer responses, and eventually, we will use the time to write an essay with a topic of their choice.

Once again, we will read a variety of genres. We will work to enhance the skills of compare/contrast, analysis of two or more texts with similar themes, determine central ideas, etc. A few of the novels we will read this year are:

- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by: Harper Lee
- *The Pearl* by: John Steinbeck
- *And Then There Were None* by: Agatha Christie
- *The Story of Anne Frank* by: Carol Ann Lee

Textbooks: Voyages Language Arts and The Language of Literature