Department of Curriculum & Instruction

Intermediate School Curriculum

Department	English Language Arts	**PEIMS Code**	03200550
Course Title	English Language Arts – Grade 8	**Course Length**	1 Year
Prerequisites		**Grade Level(s)**	8

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In Grade 8, students refine and master previously learned knowledge and skills in increasingly complex presentations, reading selections, and writing. Eighth grade students continue to read widely in classic and contemporary selections and informational texts. Students are able to identify characteristics of various literary forms. Eighth grade students are able to select and use different forms of writing for specific purposes such as to inform, persuade, or entertain. Students produce multi-paragraph compositions with varied sentence structure. Eighth grade students edit their writing based on their knowledge of grammar and usage, spelling, punctuation, and other conventions of written language. Students produce final, error-free pieces of written composition on a regular basis. Students use citations competently and write by following accepted formats for research reports. Eighth grade students present oral and written reports, including presentations strengthened by visuals and media.

COURSE GOALS

- Promote personal, social, occupational, and civic literacy through spoken and written communication.
- Foster responsible readers, writers, and communicators with the desire to be lifelong learners.
- Develop reading and writing activities to encourage problem solving skills.
- Exercise skills in gathering, synthesizing, and communicating knowledge.
- Encourage students to connect knowledge across the curriculum to build an understanding of cultural diversities and complexities of the world.
- Provide a variety of literary genres to build an understanding of the many dimensions of human experience.

PROCESS SKILLS

These TEKS should be taught on an ongoing basis throughout each nine weeks.

- Use the text's structure or progression of ideas such as cause and effect or chronology to locate and recall information
- Determine a text's main idea and how those ideas are supported with details
- Draw inferences such as conclusions or generalizations and support them with text evidence
- Support responses by referring to relevant aspects of text
- Analyze characters, including their traits, motivations, conflicts, point of view, relationships, and changes they undergo
- Draw on experiences to bring meanings to words in context such as interpreting multiple-meaning words and analogies

21ST CENTURY THEMES

- Global Awareness
- Financial, Economic, Business and Entrepreneurial Literacy
- Civic Literacy
- Health Literacy

21ST CENTURY LEARNING AND INNOVATION SKILLS

- Creativity and Innovation
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Communication and Collaboration

21ST CENTURY INFORMATION, MEDIA, AND TECHNOLOGY SKILLS

- Information Literacy
- Media Literacy
- ICT Literacy

21ST CENTURY LIFE AND CAREER SKILLS

- Flexibility and Adaptability
- Initiative and Self-Direction
- Social and Cross-Cultural Skills
- Productivity and Accountability
- Leadership and Responsibility

Area	1st Nine Weeks			2nd Nine Weeks			3rd Nine Weeks			4th Nine Weeks	
	August	**September**	**October**	**November**	**December**	**January**	**February**	**March**		**April**	**May/June**
Reading / Literature	Summer Reading Activities Short Story Poetry Nonfiction Required Read: *Fahrenheit 451* Literary Terms →			Novel Study Archetype Poetry Nonfiction Outside Read: Historical Fiction			Drama Required Read: *The Tempest* Nonfiction Novel			Mythology Novel/Literature Circles Required Read: *The Old Man and the Sea*	
Vocabulary	5 to 8 words per week – various sources including textbook, classroom resources, and teacher materials										
Grammar	**Parts of Speech:** • Review parts of speech and conventions. **Parts of a Sentence**: • Prepositional Phrases • Infinitive Phrases **Effective Sentence Construction:** Sentence Imitation w/ Mentor Sentences (simple, compound, complex, compound-complex) **Punctuation** • Commas (adv. Clauses, complex sentences)			**Parts of Speech**: • Gerund • Adjective Degrees **Parts of a Sentence:** Subject/Predicate; Appositive, Sentence Beginnings **Effective Sentence Construction**: Subject/Verb Agreement Sentence Imitation w/ Mentor Sentences **Punctuation** Commas (adv. Clauses, complex sentences)			**Parts of a Sentence:** Clauses – dependent, independent, **Effective Sentence Construction**: Sentence Variation (focus on adv. Clauses and complex sentences)			**Parts of Speech:** Review and Application **Punctuation** Review of Commas (adv. Clauses, complex sentences)	
Writing/ Composition	**Composition Structure** • Decoding Short Answer • Thesis Statement • Thoughtful, insightful analysis • Supporting Text Evidence o Paraphrase Text o Incorporating Quotations Timed Writing (one per nine weeks)			**Expository: Compare/Contrast Essay** • Topic Sentence • Introduction • Supporting Evidence • Conclusion			**Literary Analysis Essay** • Thesis Statement • Introduction • Supporting Evidence • Conclusion • Parenthetical Documentation			**Persuasion/Argumentation Essay** • Challenge/Defend • Thesis Statement • Appeals (Logical, Emotional, Ethos) • Acknowledgment of Opposite Side • Conclusion with Solutions	
Inquiry / Research	Elements of research			Elements of research			ELA Research Project (2nd semester)				
Listening / Speaking	Oral Presentation (when appropriate) Storytelling (when appropriate) Book Talks (when appropriate) Principles of Civil Discourse and Shared Inquiry Discussion Method →			Oral Presentation (when appropriate) Storytelling (when appropriate) Book Talks (when appropriate)			Oral Presentation (when appropriate) Storytelling (when appropriate) Book Talks (when appropriate)			Oral Presentation (when appropriate) Storytelling (when appropriate) Book Talks (when appropriate)	