

2023/2024
Grade 8 Language Arts Course Outline
Baker/Eastwood/Johanson/Lee/Olmstead

In Language Arts you will demonstrate increasing confidence in your ability and competence in your use of language. Language Arts emphasizes the life long application of reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing and representing. These six strands are interrelated and enable you to communicate ideas, feelings, develop critical thinking skills and contribute to your social and personal growth. The six strands will be integrated into a variety of themes and units.

General Course Objectives:

- Develop fluency in writing focusing on organization and patterns, grammar, punctuation and vocabulary.
- Development and extension of the six basic strands.
- Increase students critical thinking skills and basic comprehension through guided and semi guided analysis and evaluations of texts, novels, short stories and poetry.
- To communicate understanding ideas and feelings to assist social and personal development and mediate thought processes.
- Develop an understanding and appreciation of a wide range of language use.
- Develop an enjoyment and appreciation for reading and writing.

Timeline:

Grammar, spelling rules, journaling, writing skills and free reading will be components of the Language Arts program that will be on-going throughout the year and intertwined into each unit.

September

- Notice and Note Reading Comprehension Strategy
- Various short stories will be read to introduce and review Figurative Language. Review of basic writing skills. Blended Styles and Structures skill development
 - notetaking
 - openers
 - dressups
 - short stories
- Conventions of capitalization, and punctuation rules
- Review of parts of speech
- Introduce SEEL Paragraph Format

October – December

- Short Story Unit
- Various writing assignments: paragraphs, narrative fable, word choice, voice.
- Verb tenses, pronoun, antecedent agreement
- Figurative language in poetry
- Verse Novel Study

January – February

- Poetry unit (culture, imagery, lyrics, etc)
- Verse novel study

March – April

- The components of a Five Paragraph Essay will be introduced and developed
- Introduce and use decorations in writing

April – June

- Dystopian Novel Study
- Book, Head, Heart Reading Comprehension Strategy
- Multiple Choice Test Taking Strategies

It is our intention to integrate the Social Studies Curriculum with Language Arts throughout the year incorporating various activities.

Assessment for each Term:

A variety of assessment tools will be used for each individual unit such as: rubrics, checklists, scales, peer evaluations and anecdotal feedback. The students will be assessed on their ability to master the “I can” statements taken from the Alberta Curriculum for Learning in Language Arts. The objectives will be evaluated according to the outcomes that are met on a school based reporting system.

Excelling- Consistently

Proficient-Frequently

Satisfactory - Sometimes

Beginning-Developing

Limited-Insufficient Evidence

Summative Exams:

There will be two major testing periods during the year that will cover material taught during each term. The first exam will be at the end of January and the second exam will be at the end of June.

Homework assignments are expected to be completed on time. You will be expected to stay in at lunch and/or after school to work on incomplete homework and assignments. Late assignments will be recorded on the Discipline Chart (as incomplete homework) until the assignment is handed in to the teacher. If the assignments are not handed in before the term reporting period an incomplete will be given for that assignment.

Resources:

Various short stories, fables, legends, poetry, etc...

Literature Circle novels

Writing Structure: guidelines

Grammar and Spelling resources.

Differentiated Instruction resources

Alberta Learning Illustrative examples and curriculum objectives