

Language Arts Grades 6th, 7th, 8th Course Description

Course Philosophy: In Colossians 4:6, God’s Word says to “Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.” In accordance with God’s Word, we believe that our students will be prepared to communicate effectively through speech, reading, and writing at or above grade level.

Course Goals: Students will clearly and correctly express themselves in all forms of writing, including essays, reports, poetry, and letter writing. They will understand and correctly use punctuation and other writing mechanics, as well as correctly spell and use more sophisticated vocabulary. Students will also read various forms of literature including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama, being able to identify plot points, main idea, author’s purpose, and theme. Students will discuss and write about their responses to literature they have read. Students will be able to apply effective reading comprehension strategies to all of their reading, including outside book reports and articles. Students will engage with each other in discussion and in peer review exercises. **Time allotment:** 49 min per day, 5 days

Textbook: *Literature & Language Arts* (Holt)

Course content: Besides weekly grammar, writing, and vocabulary/spelling lessons, students will apply reading strategies in the following units:

- Plot and Setting
- Character
- Theme
- Style
- Point of View
- Poetry
- Expository Text

Class Novels:

8th grade- *The Hobbit, And Then There Were None*

7th grade- *The Shakespeare Stealer*

6th grade- *The Phantom Tollbooth*

Areas to be evaluated: Students will be graded on class participation, weekly classwork/homework packets, assessments, essays*, and oral presentations. Grading scale: 100-90% = A; 89-80% = B; 79-70% = C; 69-60% = D **Grades** will be determined by the following activity percentages: Writing: 25%; Assessment: 25% Projects/Presentations: 25%; Classwork/Homework: 15%; Participation:10% (weekly ClassDojo points)

Additional Activities: Students will have opportunities to memorize poetry and present speeches for oral presentation practice. Students will participate in online-based “book clubs” with their classmates, in which they will analyze and discuss independent reading they’ve completed. Eighth graders will compose a multi-part research report in preparation for the East Coast trip. **Please note that all essays and writing assignments must be typed in MLA format in order to receive full credit.*