

RATIONALE

The basic activities in an effective English Language Arts program is to equip students to combine a variety of sequentially acquired skills to derive meaning from text and other forms of communication. The sixth grade teacher guides students through an ELA program to help them learn, practice, apply, and integrate specific skills so that they can become independent readers and writers. However, students need to go beyond basic activities to become proficient readers, creative writers, and expressive speakers who benefit from the pleasures, inspirations, and knowledge gained from knowing how to read and effectively communicate.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The sixth grade ELA course has four main components: reading, writing, listening and speaking, and language. The ELA curriculum provides the learner with a foundation on which to build. Various approaches are used to integrate all components.

IMPORTANT LEARNER OUTCOMES

Reading:

1. Cite textual evidence in literature and informational texts to support analysis of text and when drawing inferences
2. Determine the theme or central idea of literature and informational texts and how it is conveyed through specific details
3. Summarize literature and informational texts
4. Determine the author's point of view in literature and informational texts and explain how it is developed
5. Compare and contrast the themes and topics in different forms of genre in literature
6. Read and comprehend literature and informational texts in the grades 6-8 text complexity band fluently and proficiently

Written Communication:

1. Write arguments, narratives, and informative/explanatory texts that introduces a claim or topic, develops the claim or topic with reasons, facts, and details, and includes a conclusion
2. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing
3. Conduct short research projects to answer a question that uses several sources
4. Gather information from multiple print and digital sources
5. Write routinely for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences

Speaking and Listening:

1. Engage in collaborative discussions in an one-on-one, group, and teacher-led settings
2. Interpret information presented in media and other formats
3. Present claims and findings to accentuate main ideas or themes when presenting knowledge and ideas
4. Include multimedia components and visuals in presentations

Language:

1. Use the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing and speaking
2. Use capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing
3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening
4. Determine the meaning of unknown words based on grade 6 reading and content
5. Acquisition and use of academic and domain-specific vocabulary

EVALUATION

Sixth grade students will be evaluated primarily through objective testing which includes daily assignments, classroom activities, written assignments, standardized tests, Benchmark assessments, and MAP.