

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 seventh 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 seventh 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 several pieces of 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 developed over the course of the text
3. Objectively summarize literature and informational texts
4. Determine the author's point of view in literature and informational texts and analyzed how the author developed it or distinguishes his or her position from that of others
5. Compare and contrast the a fictional portrayal and a historical account of the same time period to understand how fiction authors use or alter history
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 and link to and cite sources
3. Conduct short research projects to answer a question using several sources
4. Gather information from multiple print and digital sources using search terms effectively
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. Analyze the main ideas and supporting details presented in media and other formats
3. Present claims and findings with descriptions, facts, details, and examples when presenting knowledge and ideas
4. Include multimedia components and visuals in presentations to clarify claims and findings

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 7 reading and content

EVALUATION

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

