

## **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 eighth 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 eighth 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 strongly 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. Compare and contrast the different structures of two or more fictional texts
5. Analyze how differences in points of view in literature creates suspense or humor
6. Determine author's point of view in informational text and analyze how he or she responds to conflicting viewpoints
7. Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums to present a topic or idea
8. 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 efficiently present the relationships between information and ideas
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 purpose of information presented in media and other formats
3. Present claims and findings with evidence, reasoning, and details when presenting knowledge and ideas
4. Integrate 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 8 reading and content

## **EVALUATION**

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