

CONTENT	GRADES 6 – 7		
<p><b>LANGUAGE ARTS ENGLISH/READING</b></p>	<p>Language Arts is a set of interactive skills that provide students with the confidence and ability to face the communication challenges of the 21st century.</p> <p>The Language Arts program at the Middle School level is taught through two different venues: English and Reading courses. The focus of the two content areas is obvious however, there is certainly overlap between the two classes. In this way, the students develop an understanding of the intrinsic relationship between reading, writing, speaking and most importantly, thinking. You will note that the benchmarks have different headings and are fewer in number than the K-5 curriculum. The Middle School Curriculum assumes many of the skills and strategies learned during the early elementary years and therefore the focus is on Reading For All Purposes, Oral Communication and Listening, Writing and Composition, and Research and Reasoning.</p> <p>Learning Language Arts is more than the mastery of reading, writing, speaking and listening skills; it is also building curiosity about the world, exploring a variety of strategies to communicate clearly, analyzing information to make informed decisions and understanding the connectedness of the human experience.</p> <p>Therefore, we believe that students must respect and honor diverse viewpoints. Students become responsible and ethical communicators as they engage in meaningful dialogue, discussion, research and argument. By working collaboratively and independently students will be inspired to connect with one another and reach beyond the borders of the classroom.</p>		
KEY LEARNINGS	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
<p><b>READING FOR ALL PURPOSES</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Paraphrase key ideas by examining a text</li> <li>-Recognize organizational structures and text features within content to draw conclusions and identify author’s purposes</li> <li>-Break apart words and use context clues to uncover word meanings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Identify and summarize the main ideas and themes in narrative and informational texts</li> <li>-Identify and analyze how the literary elements can guide the comprehension of a narrative text</li> <li>-Explain how literary devices, purpose, tone, and word choice influence a variety of texts</li> <li>-Evaluate informational texts for objectivity and accuracy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Explain, analyze and express literary elements that occur in narrative texts</li> <li>-Explain how a text can capture a reader’s interest</li> <li>-Analyze and evaluate a text</li> <li>-Analyze and explain how parts of speech, word parts, word usage, and sentence structure are context clues that guide meaning.</li> </ul>

<p>ORAL COMMUNICATION AND LISTENING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Plan for and participate in successful group discussions as a speaker and listener</li> <li>-Use credible evidence to support opinions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Prepare and deliver formal presentations</li> <li>-Collaborate in small and large group discussions through active listening and relevant contributions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Deliver a clear oral presentation</li> <li>-Use a variety of response strategies that help clarify my meaning or message</li> <li>-Research a topic through effective interview techniques</li> </ul>
<p>WRITING AND COMPOSITION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Spell grade level high frequency words correctly</li> <li>-Organize ideas and plan for an intended audience when writing narrative, informational, persuasive and poetic pieces</li> <li>-Revise and edit writing for proper grammar, usage, sentence structure, mechanics and clarity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Write narrative texts using a variety of literary techniques</li> <li>-Write poetry using poetic techniques, figurative language, and graphic elements</li> <li>-Organize and compose informational texts that include support for ideas</li> <li>-Revise and edit requiring less teacher feedback</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Effectively use appropriate text structures, poetic techniques, figurative language and graphic elements</li> <li>- Vary vocabulary, sentence structure, and descriptive details to influence a readers' perceptions</li> <li>-Write cause and effect and comparison essays that demonstrate organization and maintain a central idea</li> <li>-Apply correct use of commas, quotation marks, grammar, spelling and complete sentences</li> </ul>
<p>RESEARCH AND REASONING</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Plan, organize, and present a research project using a variety of sources</li> <li>-Analyze resources for the reliability of information</li> <li>-Monitor thinking to recognize and evaluate assumptions and biases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Develop a research plan with an essential question and focus questions</li> <li>-Analyze the credibility of information and sources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Collect, organize and present research with sources accurately cited</li> <li>-Support position on issues using valid reasoning</li> <li>-Increase the variety of valid resources</li> </ul>