



Southmoreland School District

8th Grade Language Arts Curriculum Overview

ELA Grade 8 Overview

Eighth grade English Language Arts learners will continue to show growth as readers, writers, and thinkers. Students will read a variety of genres including fiction and non-fiction; which will not only broaden academic vocabulary, but strengthen comprehension and analytical skills. Students will also engage in comprehensive projects and discussions driven by reading material that builds on prior knowledge and also aligns with student readiness and interest. This course of study will prepare students for higher level thinking that is essential for their success in high school and beyond.

Module Titles

Module 1: Reading Literature

Module 2: Vocabulary Acquisition and Usage

Module 3: Reading Informational Text

Module 4: Language; Understanding of Grammar Usage and Mechanics

Module 5: Writing; Write, Revise Text for Purposes/Audiences

Module Overviews

Module 1: Reading Literature

In this module, students will read and analyze fictional texts. Students will develop understanding and integration of key ideas and details. They will interpret metaphors in context, analyze style, tone, and mood of text, determine cause and effect relationships in literary text, analyze characters (characterization), make inferences/conclusions based on the text, identify and analyze plot elements, summarize and paraphrase text, determine the theme of a text, determine the author's purpose and point of view of text, and identify the characteristics of different types of genres. Students will analyze how the setting contributes to the text. Students will analyze the author's craft, including figurative language with a focus on irony, allusion, foreshadowing and flashback. Students will also analyze how dialogue advances plot in a text. These literary skills will be developed through the reading and analysis of poetry, novels, and short stories.



Southmoreland School District

8th Grade Language Arts Curriculum Overview

Module 2: Vocabulary Acquisition and Usage

In this module, students will develop understanding of word relationships and expression. Students will use strategies to determine academic and content vocabulary. They will interpret the meaning of a figurative word or phrase. Students will identify unknown words through context and determine the meaning of multiple meaning words. They will identify word relationships through synonyms and antonyms of words along with analogies, and build an understanding of words through prefixes, suffixes, and roots. Students will also study word nuances and shades of meaning through the understanding of denotation and connotation. Students will work towards mastery of vocabulary throughout the entire year by utilizing fiction and nonfiction works.

Module 3: Reading Informational Text

In this module, students will read and analyze nonfiction text. Students will identify the central idea and supporting details of text. They will evaluate evidence and support claims in different forms of nonfiction text. They will use strategies to identify literary elements of nonfiction text by determining the cause and effect of a situation in text, determining the author's viewpoint, determining whether a statement is a fact or opinion, and locating details in informational text. Students will determine the logical order of events in text, paraphrase text, make predictions based on the text, and analyze text features of different forms of nonfiction text. Students will analyze different techniques of propaganda and persuasion and be able to recognize claims and supporting details in a persuasive or argumentative text. In informational texts, students will provide supporting evidence to prove the author's main idea. Students will work towards mastery of reading informational texts through reading a variety of genres of nonfiction.

Module 4: Language; Understanding of Grammar Usage and Mechanics

In this module, students will identify the following parts of speech: nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, interjections, conjunctions, and articles. The students will classify types of sentences along with using a variety of sentences in their own writing. Students will understand and use proper language mechanics in the capitalization, punctuation, and spelling, with a focus on commonly confused words, while writing. Students will be able to recognize and correct errors in subject-verb agreement, misplaced modifiers, and active/passive voice. Students will understand the usage and use the following punctuation correctly: apostrophes, dashes, hyphens, parenthesis, ellipses, brackets, colons, semicolons, commas, ending punctuation, and quotation marks. Students will also identify and use correct spelling of words through an understanding of roots, prefixes, suffixes, commonly misspelled words, patterns, and



Southmoreland School District

8th Grade Language Arts Curriculum Overview

plurals. Students will work towards mastery of these objectives through fictional, creative, and informational text-dependent analysis writing.

Module 5: Writing; Write, Revise Text for Purposes/Audiences

In this module, students will plan, focus, organize, and revise all different forms of writing. Students will be able to write an informational text, which includes argumentative, persuasive, and descriptive writing. Some skills mastered will include: developing content and conducting research through a variety of resources, supporting a topic or thesis with relevant details using logical sequencing, gathering information without plagiarism, writing based on a determined audience and purpose, and supporting claims with reasons or evidence in argumentative and persuasive texts while using rhetorical strategies. Students will also be able to write a narrative text in which they can use vivid imagery, description, and details of literary elements in narrative writing. In all types of writing, students will be able to use proper introductions, transitions, and conclusions, as well as proper sentence structure, word choice, style, and point of view. Students will work towards mastery of these objectives through various writings including text-dependent analysis, advertisements, research papers, and myths.