

Language Arts Syllabus
Middle School
2009 - 2010

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Our course of study in Language Arts will focus on the four modes of language communication: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Emphasis will be placed on the following: the writing process, grammatical structure, study skills, literature appreciation, spelling and vocabulary development, research skills, and the development of reading strategies.

GOALS

Over the term of the school year, students will learn to be competent and fluent in standard English. The Arch Diocese language arts curriculum is designed to elicit evidence of students' language competencies through their writing products. Therefore, students will produce developmentally appropriate pieces of writing, which will undergo teacher editing, self-editing and peer editing. Students' writing will be assessed in a manner that will communicate writing strengths and weaknesses, as well as encourage growth and progress.

MATERIALS

- *Writing and Grammar: Teacher directed*
- *Fiction and nonfiction literature*
- *Daily Vocabulary, Grammar, & Writing*
- *Daily Oral Language*

OBJECTIVES

Students will write well-developed paragraphs and essays which include carefully constructed topic sentences, introductions, supporting details, and conclusions. Students will use transitions within and between paragraphs, use dialogue in writing, and demonstrate correct grammar usage. Students will identify the eight parts of speech; demonstrate correct application of common spelling rules, and demonstrate correct spelling of high-frequency words; avoid run-on sentences and non-functional fragments; demonstrate correct usage of capitalization and punctuation; read required novels and personalize reading practice using the Accelerated Reading Program; and demonstrate comprehension through personalized goal setting and independent reading practice.

ONGOING EXPECTATIONS

Topics that are addressed on an ongoing basis are as follows: *Daily Oral Language* exercises; 6th grade spelling and vocabulary; parts of speech; sentence structure; writing in response to journal writing topics; reading-to-learn strategies; and selected literature readings. Organizational skills are an integral part of the language arts program - students will keep their materials in well-organized notebooks. Students will write their assignments in their calendars and maintain a personal reading log. It is the responsibility of the student to obtain, complete, and turn in all make-up work. Students will carefully edit all assignments. Rushed and carelessly completed assignments may result in a lowered grade. It is the student's responsibility to be prepared with required items for class.

APPROXIMATE WEIGHTED GRADE

- | | |
|------------------------|-----|
| ▪ Class Work | 25% |
| ▪ Quizzes | 10% |
| ▪ Tests | 20% |
| ▪ Homework/Reading Log | 20% |
| ▪ Writing/Projects | 25% |

We look forward to working with you and your child in making this a successful school year. This syllabus is a general outline and is subject to change in order to accommodate class and individual needs.

Mrs. Schweitzer, 6th grade

Mrs. Dewar, 7th grade

Mr. Schmerbach, 8th grade

Student signature: _____ Parent signature: _____

Date: _____