

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts Syllabus

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## **Course Description:**

Eighth grade Language Arts is a course that combines the study of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. The course content will review basic skills previously taught and teach new skills with emphasis on application of skills. The course will include an intensive composition unit reviewing proper paragraph formation and organization, formal writing, preparation and presentation of speeches and discussions, exposure to a variety of literary forms and techniques, vocabulary development, and instruction in and application of mechanics. This course is intended to prepare students for success in high school.

## **Expectations of Students**

Students are expected to report to class on time, prepared with appropriate supplies (paper, books, pen, and pencil). Students are expected to behave in a manner that is appropriate for the classroom. Students are expected to complete all homework, reading and study assignments as they are assigned.

## **Promise from Instructor**

The instructor will report to class on time, prepared with all appropriate supplies. The teacher will treat all students with courtesy and respect. The teacher will be available for fifteen minutes after the last period of class M-Thurs to speak with students or parents. The teacher will return all emails or phone calls within 24 hours of receipt.

## **Goals:**

- To foster the integration of vocabulary, composition, and oral language skills
- To master proper grammatical usage in writing and speaking skills
- To explore a variety of literature genres while adapting reading strategies to improve comprehension
- To give students extensive experience writing formal and informal compositions

## **Resources:**

Contact administration in reference to required text books and school supplies. School Supplies are listed on the school website.

**Evaluation:**

Students will receive weekly vocabulary quizzes, bi-weekly grammar exams, midterm and final exams. Students will be tested on all quarterly reading assignments. In addition, periodic short-term and long-term writing assignments will be assigned. A test will be given on the first day on the required summer reading novel.

**Quarterly Reading:**

Every nine weeks the students will be assigned a novel to read. The students will be tested on the novel at the end of the quarter.

**Book Title**

**Author**

*The Giver*

Lois Lowry

1<sup>st</sup> quarter

*Lord of the Flies*

William Golding

2<sup>nd</sup> quarter

*Great Expectations*

Charles Dickens

3<sup>rd</sup> quarter

*Night*

Elie Wisel

4<sup>th</sup> quarter