

Grade 8 English Language Arts

Course Description:

Eighth Grade English Language Arts is a course combining writing and reading. Students attend ELA classes daily. Throughout the class, students engage in reading both formal and informal writing as well as different speaking and listening activities. When participating in reading activities, students continually analyze and make inferences. These reading pieces and activities provide models and/or motivation for student writing. Students reflect both on their own writing and their own thinking. Writing pieces vary in topic, complexity, and purpose.

Reading

As evidenced based on classroom assessments, the student is able to:

- R.1 Make logical inferences from a text [R.8.1(1)]
- R.2 Cite textual evidence that strongly supports an analysis of a text [R.8.1(2)]
- R.3 Determine one or more central ideas and analyze their development over the course of the text [R.8.2 1)]
- R.4 Provide an objective summary of a text [R.8.2(2)]
- R. 5 Analyze how parts of a text reveal aspects of a character [R.8.3]
- R.6 Determine the meaning of words and phrases, including figurative and connotative meanings [R.8.4]

Writing

As evidenced based on classroom assessments, the student is able to:

- W.1 Write a clear claim [W.8.2.a(1)]
- W.2 Write a clear thesis statement [W.8.2.a(2)]
- W.3 Acknowledge and distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims [W.8.2.a(2)]
- W.4 Clearly introduce an examined topic by beginning with a hook, including background information, and finishing with the thesis statement/claim [W.8.3.a(1)]
- W.5 Write a conclusion that provides closure and ties up loose ends [W.8.3.a(2)]
- W.6 Create writing that utilizes effective transitions [W.8.3.b]
- W.7 Produce clear and coherent writing through proper organization [W.8.4(1)]
- W.8 Produce writing authentic to task, purpose, and audience [W.8.4(2)]
- W.9 Gather credible information from multiple print and digital sources to avoid plagiarism [W.8.8(1)]
- W.10 Quote the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism [W.8.8(2)]
- W.11 Paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism [W.8.8(3)]

Speaking and Listening

As evidenced based on classroom assessments, the student is able to:

- S.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions. [SL.8.1]
- S.2 Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media and formats. [SL.8.2(1)]
- S.3 Evaluate the effectiveness of the overall message in diverse media and formats. [SL.8.2(2)]

Language

As evidenced based on classroom assessments, the student is able to:

- L.1 Correctly write compound sentences. [L.8.6(1)]
- L.2 Correctly write complex sentences. [L.8.6(2)]
- L.3 Use a variety of sentence types in writing. [L.8.6(3)]
- L.4 Correctly use prepositional phrases. [L.8.5(1)]
- L.5 Correctly use appositive phrases [L.8.5(2)]
- L.6 Demonstrate contextually appropriate use of the conventions of standardized English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. [L.8.6 (4)]

West Salem Middle School is a Target-Based Grading and Reporting School. The learning targets above appear in the Skyward gradebook. Teachers provide feedback on each learning target to parents and students via the Skyward gradebook using a score of 3 (Proficient), 2 (Approaching), 1 (Needs Support), or 0 (No Evidence).