

LANGUAGE ARTS

Purpose: The Language Arts Curriculum embodies the full scope of reading, writing, and thinking skills. Specific objectives include instilling a love of literature, ensuring appropriate writing skills, acknowledging the necessity of correct grammar, spelling and improving standardized testing skills. Students are provided with a print rich environment in which they explore experience and express themselves through a variety of activities.

Overview: Language Arts across the grades levels, introduces, refines, and masters the following:

- Oral Communication
- Writing/Language
- Reading/Literature
- Study/Research Skills
- Spelling/Vocabulary
- Phonemic Awareness
- Language Mechanics/Grammar/Correct Usage
- Penmanship

Sampling of Topics Covered:

Grades 1 – 3

- Manuscript and cursive penmanship
- Looking for language patterns in stories and poetry
- Construction a simple story using beginning, middle, and end.
- Recognition and use of rhyming elements
- Using a variety of strategies to derive meaning from text, including cause and effect, making predictions and locating the main idea and supporting details
- Identifying basic facts and main ideas in a text and use them as the basis for interpretation.
- Reading and interpreting simple charts, graphs, maps, illustrations and signs.
- Using short stories, picture books, literature to understand other cultural and historical periods
- Basic grammar and language mechanics

Grades 4 – 6

All of the above, as well as:

- Creating complete and correct declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences in speaking and writing.
- Progressing to identify all eight parts of speech
- Correct use of the writing process, including pre-writing, editing, peer editing, revision, and publishing
- Writing with purpose ó to describe, to inform, to persuade, to narrate
- Recognizing genre: fiction, nonfiction, prose, poetry, biography
- Using of research materials
- Organizing material for use in study strategies such as graphic organizers.
- Use of higher level punctuation such as quotation marks, hyphens, colons
- Identifying and using indirect objects, predicate nominatives, phrases, clauses, antecedents, transitional words, etc.
- Reading and interpreting literature

Jr. High

All of the above, as well as:

- Studying literature via thematic units
- Analyzing literary elements, including: plot, setting, characterization, conflict, point of view, theme, etc.
- Critically reading, examining and discussing poetry, drama, short stories, and novels
- MLA format
- Using rich language in writing
- Using higher order thinking skills in writing and discussion