

NWMS LANGUAGE ARTS 8TH GRADE

Course Syllabus

Course Name: 8th Grade language Arts

Course Description: This course will target students' growth in the areas of reading, writing, listening, speaking, discussion, reflection, and viewing. Reading strategies, critical thinking skills, and vocabulary building comprise the main elements of reading instructions. Through fiction, non-fiction, and poetry reading, students will practice reading strategies and comprehension skills. The focus of writing will be on narrative, informational, argumentative, and research writing. The overall goal of the class is to increase the literacy and writing ability of students.

Course Resources

- *Literature: Language and Literacy 8*, Prentice Hall (short stories, poetry, drama)
 - Novels: *The Boy in Striped Pajamas*, student choices from suggested literature circle book list/library

Reading Instruction will focus on:

- Short stories, nonfiction, drama, poetry, novels, narrative, and released reading assessment materials. Focus will be on pulling evidence from several sources for answers to questions.
- Reading comprehension and critical thinking strategies, elements of literature, poetic elements, text features, summarizing, analysis, and all Common Core State Standards.

Writing Instruction will focus on:

- Narrative, Informational (Explanatory), research, and Argumentative Writing
- All Common Core State Standards
- Four or more complete essays and/or letters
- Literary writing—providing text-based responses to literature and poetry
- Responses to nonfiction articles and essays

State Assessment:

Students will take the reading and writing **Smarter Balanced Assessment** in the spring.

Course Outline/Instructional Units

SEMESTER ONE

Novel study/Literary analysis (*Boy in the Striped Pajamas*)

Essays/Writing for variety of audiences (blog)

Short Story Unit (Plot, Setting, Character, Theme)

Vocabulary – Commonly confused words, Literature Dependent words

Grammar – Parts of speech, basic sentence structure

Speech/Oral Presentation

SEMESTER TWO

Poetry

Research Process and Note Taking

Informational Writing (research paper)

Novel Unit – Literature Circles

Non Fiction – essays, reading for information

Essays/Writing for variety of audiences (blog)

Major Assessments

Essays and Blogs

Novel study journals

Written responses to literature

Tests

Projects

Research Paper