

OHHS Special Education Department Course Syllabus



Course Name: LS English Language Arts

Course Description:

Life Skills includes a wide range of knowledge and skills essential for independent living. This course focuses on functional reading and writing, including how to read a recipe, follow instructions, write a letter and conduct basic research. It also exposes students to informational and literary texts, and requires them to think and write critically about those texts.

Prerequisites

Placement for this course is determined by IEP team decision.

Course Resources

The curriculum for this course is Readtopia, which is specially designed for high school students with autism and other complex needs. Students read classic novels, such as “Treasure Island” and “Frankenstein” that have been paired with graphics and leveled to each student’s reading ability, including for emergent readers.

Course Fees

None.

Course Outline/Instructional Units

The course is designed around units anchored by a classic novel. In addition to exploring the theme, setting, characters and plot of the novel, lessons also address related standards-aligned social studies and science content. Additionally, students work on foundational reading and writing skills, including reading fluency, comprehension, phonemic awareness, grammar, punctuation and handwriting. Life Skills students are expected to read and write daily to the best of their abilities during all classes, not just this one.

Assessments

Student grades are based on participation and effort. Data is collected regularly on each student's individual goal progress. Students in the class maintain a portfolio of their work and are expected to participate in assessing their own progress as able. Parents/Guardians receive a quarterly progress report on IEP goal progress.

Homework

Homework is not generally assigned. If students wish to be challenged with extra work at home, that can be arranged on a case-by-case basis. Families are encouraged to help their student develop a love of learning by taking their student to the library, reading with their child and playing books on tape the student enjoys.

Grading Scale:

Regular Scale	
Letter Grade	Percentage
A	93% and Above
A -	90%-92.99%
B+	87%-89.99%
B	83%-86.99%
B-	80-82.99%
C+	77%-79.99%
C	73-76.99%
C-	70-72.99%
D+	67%-69.99%
D	60%-66.99%
F	59.99% and Below