

**8th Grade Standards**

**Language Arts**

**Course Overview:** Language Arts 8 focuses on building students' vocabulary, reading, writing, speaking, critical thinking and listening skills. Differentiated projects and assessments offer students the opportunity to choose learning/application methods that best suit their learning styles and needs. Students will be graded based on completion, quality of work, and participation in activities and assignments.

**Bold standards are essential standards that all students will learn as they complete the course.**

**Unit 1 Persuasive Writing (21 days)**

**Description:** Students will demonstrate the components of effective written persuasion.

**Standards**

1. The students will create a piece of persuasive writing with arguments to support claims. (W8.1)
2. The students will introduce claims and acknowledge opposing claims, all while organizing the reasons and evidence logically. (W8.1A)
3. The students will establish and maintain a formal style, while using words, phrases and clauses to create a cohesive written piece of text. (W8.1C, W8.1D)
4. The students will, with minimal help from peers and teachers, edit a piece of writing to achieve a polished written piece of text. (W8.5)
5. The students will draw from several sources, both print and digital, to support their opinions. (W8.6, W8.7, W8.8)
6. The students will use MLA format to accurately cite their sources and avoid plagiarism. (W8.8)

**Unit 2 Informational Writing (21 days)**

**Description:** Students will demonstrate the components of effective informational writing to examine a topic.

**Standards**

1. **The students will introduce and develop a topic with clarity using categories, graphics and multimedia to aid in comprehension. (W8.2, W8.2A, W8.2B)**
2. The students will establish and maintain a formal style, while using precise language and transitions to create cohesion and clarify relationships among topics. (W8.2C, W8.2D, W8.2E)
3. The students will provide a concluding statement that supports the information or explanation presented. (W8.2F)
4. The students will, with minimal help from peers and teachers, edit a piece of writing to achieve a polished written piece of text. (W8.5)
5. The students will gather information from multiple sources, using search terms effectively and assessing the credibility and accuracy of each source. (W8.8)
6. The students will use MLA format to accurately cite their sources and avoid plagiarism. (W8.8)

**Unit 3 Narrative Writing (21 days)**

**Description:** Students will demonstrate knowledge of narrative writings through real or imagined experiences.

**Standards**

1. The students will create pieces of writing to reflect real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details and well-structured event sequences (W8.3)
2. Students will introduce the story by actively engaging the reader by establishing a context and point of view through a narrator and/or characters. (W8.3A)
3. Students will organize an event sequence that unfolds logically through the use of narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, description and reflection. (W8.3A, W8.3B)
4. Students will use the components of Six Traits to enhance their writing. (W8.1, W8.2, W8.3, W8.4, W8.5)
5. Students will use age-appropriate vocabulary and transitions to convey sequence or signal shifts from one time frame to another. (W8.3C and W8.3D)
6. The students will, with minimal help from peers and teachers, edit a piece of writing to achieve a polished written piece of text. (W8.5)
7. Students will provide a conclusion that wraps up all of the elements of plot (W8.3E)

**Unit 4 Research (40 days)**

**Description:** Students will be involved in multiple mini-research projects throughout the year in which they either respond to a topic (either teacher-generated or self-generated).

**Standards**

1. **The students will conduct short research projects to answer a question on a given topic. (W8.7)**
2. The students will gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources. (W8.8)
3. The students will present claims and findings, emphasizing points in a focused, cohesive manner with valid reasoning. (SL8.4)
4. The students will integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest. (SL8.5)

**Unit 5 Literature (20 days)**

**Description:** The students will read grade-level literature to determine theme, plot, character traits and word meaning.

**Standards**

1. **Students will determine a theme or central idea and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to the characters, setting and plot. (RL8.2)**
2. Students will analyze how dialogue or plot propels the action, reveals character traits or provokes a conclusion. (RL 8.3)
3. Students will determine unknown word meanings through context and will analyze the impact of word choice on a story’s tone/mood. (RL 8.4)
4. Students will compare and contrast a piece of literature with other forms of information, including other fiction and non-fiction text, videos and discussions. (RL 8.5)
5. Students will increase their knowledge of age-appropriate literary terms in connection with elements of literature. (RL8.6)

**Unit 6 Informational Text (20 days)**

**Description:** The students will read non-fiction, informational text with the ability to make inferences and determine a central idea for each selection.

**Standards**

1. **Students will cite textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. (RI8.1)**
2. Students will determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship and connection to other individuals, ideas or events. (RI8.2, RI8.3)
3. Students will determine word meaning as used in context, analyze paragraph structure and determine an author’s point of view (RI8.4, RI 8.5, RI8.6)
4. Students will evaluate and analyze the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums or multiple texts. (RI8.7, RI8.8, RI8.9)

**Unit 7 Career Readiness (30 days)**

**Description:** The students will take interest inventories and begin career exploration.

**Standards**

1. Students will engage in online interest inventories to explore career options in which they are interested. (School Counseling Content Standard E.1, G.1)
2. Students will create a resume to highlight personal achievements, accomplishments and goals. (School Counseling Content Standard G, H, I)
3. Students will examine three to five careers in detail by attending a career fair at WITC in the spring. (School Counseling Content Standard G, H, I)
4. Students will listen to various guest speakers to learn first-hand accounts of resume writing, interviewing, and job etiquette skills. (School Counseling Content Standard G, H, I)
5. Students will participate in a one on one Mock Interview while highlighting their resume and other achievements. (School Counseling Content Standard G, H, I)

**Unit 8 Language (ongoing)**

**Description:** The students will demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing and speaking.

**Standards**

1. The students will use the correct verb tense in all writing and be able to explain their function within particular sentences. (L8.1, L8.2, L8.3)
2. **The students will use the correct conventions of Standard English capitalization, punctuation and spelling when writing. (L8.2, L8.3)**
3. **The students will increase their use of common, grade-appropriate vocabulary through the use of context, Greek or Latin affixes or roots, reference materials, literature and discussion. (L8.3, L8.4)**
4. **The students will increase their understanding of figurative language, relationships between words and word associations through the use of grade-level literature. (L8.5. L8.6)**

**Unit 9 Accelerated Reader (ongoing)**

**Description:** The students will read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, poems at the high end of grades 6-8 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

**Standards**

1. Students will use Accelerated Reader to independently and proficiently read at the grade level reflective of the STAR score results. (RL8.10)