

ELA Curriculum Overview

6th Grade ELA:

We explore a range of reading, including literature (novels and short stories), informational text, drama, and poetry. As we read these different works, we will practice skills in understanding and analyzing the works. Students will read the text closely to understand not only the plot and character development but also key ideas and details. They will also be able to cite the text to support inferences and conclusions. We will be discovering themes and how they are developed in the literature we read. As students hone their grasp of craft and structure, they will study the impact and meaning of what they read, including the author's purpose, word and phrase choice, and point of view. We will review and study grammar, punctuation rules, and capitalization. Students will apply what they learn to their writing and speaking skills. We focus on personal narrative writing, creative writing, and chronological writing. Students will practice their speaking skills through small presentations, independent book talks and student led discussions.

7th Grade ELA:

We will review and study grammar, punctuation rules, and capitalization. Students will apply what they learn to their writing and speaking skills. It is important to know the different writing forms, and to that end, the students will learn the following essay types: research, compare/contrast, persuasive personal narrative, five-paragraph, and descriptive.

We will read a variety of genres to enhance the student's ability to infer, interpret, and assess different types of novels. In 7th Grade, we focus on different types of genres. How these genres shape the plot, characters, and themes of a novel. We continue to grow upon the skills learned in sixth-grade for reading comprehension.

8th Grade ELA:

The focus of eighth-grade ELA is to prepare students for high school. We will build on the skills learned in seventh-grade as well as develop a deeper understanding of grammar, rules of writing, and text analysis. To prepare students for high school, the writing assignments will be more research-based and longer. There will be the main focus for each trimester.

- **Trimester One:** a five-page research paper on a World War II topic
- **Trimester Two:** a deeper understanding of grammar lessons, punctuation, and writing skills.
- **Trimester Three:** writing arguments with proper support, speeches, and debates. Students will create their own 10-minute "TED Talk". They will learn to use ethos, pathos, and logos to create a motivational and informational speech.

Once again, we will read a variety of genres. We will work to enhance the skills of compare/contrast, analysis of two or more texts with similar themes, determining central ideas, etc.

Enriched ELA:

Students have the opportunity to be placed in enriched ELA while in Middle School. The determination for placement is based on NWEA scores, teacher observations, and work ethic. Students in the enriched class move at a faster pace and read different novels. Both the enriched ELA class and on-level ELA class meet all of the MN State Standards for Middle School. The main difference between the classes is the time spent on a topic, classroom novels, and the amount of homework/review the class has.

