

Pine Grove Middle School L.A. 8 Course Outline

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Program Rational and Philosophy

The aim of English Language Arts is to enable each student to understand and appreciate language, and to use it confidently and competently in a variety of situations for communication, personal satisfaction and learning.

Language learning is an active and lifelong process. Students enhance their language abilities by using what they know in new and more complex situations. They use prior knowledge to extend and enhance their language and understanding. The six strands of Language Arts are **Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing, Viewing, and Representing.**

GENERAL and SPECIFIC LEARNER OUTCOMES

General Outcome 1: Students will listen, speak, read, write, view, and represent to explore thoughts, ideas, feelings, and experiences.

Specific Learner Outcomes:

1.1 Discover and explore

1.2 Clarify and extend

General Outcome 2: Students will listen, speak, read, write, view, and represent to comprehend and respond personally and critically to oral, print, and other media texts.

Specific Learner Outcomes:

2.1 Use strategies and cues

2.2 Respond to texts

2.3 Understand forms, elements, and techniques

2.4 Create original text

General Outcome 3: Students will listen, speak, read, write, view, and represent to manage ideas and information.

Specific Learner Outcomes:

3.1 Plan and focus

3.2 Select and process

3.3 Organize, record, and evaluate

3.4 Share and review

General Outcome 4: Students will listen, speak, read, write, view, and represent to enhance the clarity and artistry of communication.

Specific Learner Outcomes:

4.1 Enhance and improve

4.2 Attend to conventions

4.3 Present and share

General Outcome 5: Students will listen, speak, read, write, view, and represent to respect, support and collaborate with others.

Specific Learner Outcomes:

5.1 Respect others and strengthen community

5.2 Work within a group

EVALUATION

Term Work/Assignments (daily work, assignments)	50%
Major Written Assignments/Projects	20%
Independent Reading Program	10%
Mid-Year/Final Exams (Part A: Paragraph Writing & Part B: Reading Comprehension)	20%

OUTLINE:

Students will engage in a variety of Language Arts activities throughout the year involving all six strands of Language Arts. All Activities will follow the timeline of the specific teacher. Some of the specific activities are as follows:

1. Written Assignments: At least one major writing assignment will be done each term.

These assignments must follow the Quality Rubric:

- a. Name, class and date in the upper right hand corner
- b. The title of the assignment must be clearly indicated
- c. Writing is neat and legible whether cursive, print, or computer typed
- d. Writing is in blue or black ink
- e. Margins on the paper must be adhered to
- f. Writing must be double spaced for good copies

Assignments must follow the writing process: a. Self-edited b. Peer edited c. Final copy

2. Reading Assignments:

- a. In Class: These will include readings from L.A. reading texts, booklets for specific topics, reading comprehension activities and individual silent reading.
- b. At Home Reading Program: Reading is being assigned as homework. Students are asked to spend at least 30 minutes reading, 5 nights a week. Students may read anything from novels to instructional manuals and may also count homework. (Please refer to your child's Home Reading Calendar sheets.)

3. Ongoing Collaboration with Mary Bergeron Elementary:

"Kinder8 Project" - My grade 8 L.A. class will be paired with Mrs. Redman's kindergarten class and will do a number of literacy based activities over the year.

TECHNOLOGY OUTCOMES

Through class work and projects students will use computers for word processing, research, and other techniques. They will use a variety of media to present their topics to the class.

Long Range Plans

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| ☺ "Identity" | September |
| ☺ "Write" On | September |
| • Parts of Speech/Paragraphing - Review | |
| ☺ "It's A Mystery" | September - October |
| • Reading Comprehension/Written Assignments | |
| ☺ "The Art of Persuasion" | November - March |
| • Reading Comprehension | |
| • Advertising Techniques | |
| · Project Assessment | |
| • Persuasive Writing: Paragraph/The Business Letter/The Essay | |
| (Mid-Year Exams: Business Letter/Reading Comprehension) | January |
| ☺ "Kinder8" (Dakin/PGMS) Project | April - May |
| • Original "Picture Book" | |
| ☺ Poetry | May - June |
| • Poetry Forms/Figurative Language | |
| • Project Assessment | |
| ☺ Review (Final Exams: Business Letter/Reading Comprehension) | End of June |