

**Course Title:** 8th grade language arts  
**Credit / Hours:** 1 credit

**Board Approval Date:** June, 2010

### **Course Description:**

This course is designed to review language arts skills students have learned throughout previous instruction, to act as a bridge for more sophisticated use of reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills at the high school level, and to further develop in students an appreciation for reading and writing as a lifetime source of information and enjoyment.

The units in this course are based on the Pennsylvania state standards and anchors for reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Coverage of these standards and anchors is organized into six general units of study: composition, fiction, nonfiction, research, poetry, and drama.

While each unit of study and its attached standards are covered in depth at the time that unit is studied during the year, many units incorporate elements of other units to more completely integrate all language arts into the learning process. For instance, while the focus of the composition unit is writing, the unit will also include reading nonfiction, poetry, or fiction. Vocabulary study is integrated into all units as an ongoing course of study throughout the year.

### **Learning Activities / Modes of Assessment:**

Large group instruction	Tests and Quizzes
Writing assignments	Teacher Observation
Small group work	Projects with Rubrics
Peer review	Checking for understanding
Presentations	Pairs work
Formative assessments	Summative Assessments
Software programs	Small group discussion
Large group discussion	Independent research

**Instructional Resources:**

Reading Drills (Jamestown Publishing)  
How to Get Better Scores (Perfection Learning)  
Writing for Proficiency (Pearson Learning Group)  
Various pieces of literature (see district reading list for 8th grade)  
Write Source 2000 (Houghton Mifflin Co.)  
Writer's Choice (Glencoe)  
McDougal-Littell Literature, grade 8 (Holt McDougal)  
Elements of Language (Holt McDougal)  
Appropriate Internet resources

# Course Pacing Guide

Course: Grade 8 ELA

Course Unit (Topic)	Length of Instruction
1. Fiction	35 Days
2. Nonfiction	25 Days
3. Poetry	30 Days
4. Drama	30 Days
5. Composition	30 Days
6. Research	30 Days