

Grade 8 English Language Arts

Grammar:	<i>Voyages in English</i> Loyola Press <i>Daily Language Review</i>
Vocabulary Development:	<i>Word Wisdom</i> – Zaner-Bloser
Writing Program:	<i>Step Up To Writing</i>
Literature:	<i>Collections</i> – Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Grammar, usage and mechanics will be covered in the text *Voyages in English*. The grammar book is a standard textbook building on what the students have learned in past years. These skills will also be reviewed daily in a variety of types of practice checking the students' understanding of grammar and editing.

Vocabulary will be done in context with the reading material in *Collections* and using the *Word Wisdom* curriculum.

Step up to Writing teaches students to write clear, concise, and organized paragraphs, reports and essays by using a multi-sensory approach. *Step up* also helps students become more confident oral presenters. We will be using this approach in speech writing in preparation for the annual speech tournament. There is no text; almost all instruction uses handouts and teacher modeling. Much of the 8th grade writing will be in response to the content of the Literature book *Collections*. This writing will be well formed paragraphs using a thesis statement, citing from the text for support, and a concluding sentence. The research paper in 8th grade is persuasive in nature and includes researching using fact cards, putting together a bibliography, using transitions, and writing introductory and concluding paragraphs. Modern Language Association (MLA) citations are used.

The eighth grade will be using the text *Collections* to prepare for high school literature. The class will read an array of literature including short stories, articles, poems, and nonfiction to focus on the development of plot, characterization, setting, point of view, and especially theme. Writing to analyze the literature, and citing examples from the texts, will be a major part of the curriculum. Novels will be read in small groups or individually. The novels may integrate other subject matter such as history and religion.

Accelerated Reader is also a part of the Literature curriculum. The students will be expected to read and take tests on level appropriate novels throughout each trimester. Testing is available daily in the classroom, as well as by appointment before or after school.

A daily 15 minutes of reading an AR book is recommended as Accelerated Reading is part of the Literature grade.

Study skills are incorporated into all subject content areas. The first few weeks of school are focused on learning styles to give the students ideas about how they study and what study strategies might work best for them. Test taking tips, note taking, and organizational skills are all reinforced daily.

Grade 8 History

Text: *The American Nation* – Prentice Hall

First Trimester: A Dividing Nation
 Civil War People and Places
 Reconstruction

Second Trimester: Industrialization
 Era of Change in the West
 Rise of Industry and Unions
 Immigration and Growth of Cities
 Progressives and Reformers/Women's Suffrage
 Becoming a World Power

Third Trimester: World War I
 Roaring Twenties
 The Great Depression
 World War II

Throughout the year study of the Constitution and Amendments will be incorporated.

(Later this month the students will be choosing an AR book related to the Civil War era as a regular assignment.)

Welcome to Curriculum Night 2017

Thank you for attending this meeting. Eighth grade is a fun-filled, exciting, challenging year for your student. In hopes that we can all begin the year with a common understanding, here is an outline of some of the basic expectations of eighth graders:

- Students should arrive on time, in the appropriate uniform, with all necessary books and supplies every day.
- Students, by their actions and words, should show respect and be responsible.
- Students should demonstrate a cooperative attitude by their willingness to follow school policies and rules whether in the classroom or on the playground.

Responsibility

There are many ways for eighth graders to show their growth in being responsible. I want them to be prepared for high school; therefore, I will not be allowing the students to call home for forgotten lunches, musical instruments, props, assignments, etc. Please help your student develop a “check list” they can use each morning or evening to help be prepared for each new day of school.

Homework

Students will have homework in most subject areas every day. As the year progresses there will be more long-term assignments given, and students will need to pace themselves and not leave the assignment until the last moment. Please monitor your son/daughter’s work by checking Power School. Some homework may be given a grade and other homework may be just checked in.

Due to the fact that homework is assigned to reinforce that particular day’s learning, or prepare the students for the next day’s lesson, incomplete, late or poorly done work does not maximize this intent and will not receive full credit.

If they do not have a specific assignment on which to be working, they can always be reading for Accelerated Reader points.

Absences

Students need to communicate an absence with a “study buddy”. That student will gather all handouts and write down assignments for the absent student. Make-up work is due in as many days as was the absence.

Tardies

Each school day begins at 8:15 with a warm-up assignment and announcements for the day. It is an important part of the class routine; therefore, students should be in the classroom and ready to begin working at 8:15.

An **Assignment Calendar** was purchased for each student. They are responsible for filling in all assignments.

High School Information

- 2 excused absences for high school visits (students are responsible for missed work)
- 1 Archdiocese registration packet per student
- Teacher and Principal form to me (by Thanksgiving break)
- Individual applications sent directly to the high schools
- Check individual school websites for dates and to schedule a visit.

You will have an opportunity to meet with each of your son/daughter's teachers individually during conferences in November. If you desire a meeting before that time, please call the school office or email the teacher for an appointment.