

# 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts Syllabus

**Rationale:** The goals for this course are to improve oral communication skills, to improve written communication skills, to develop techniques of a successful reader, to grow in the ability to translate text into real-life occurrences, to gain the ability to read critically, and to develop vocabulary skills.

**Course Description:** Four divisions of language are explored within this course: grammar, composition, vocabulary, and text. Grammar study includes parts of speech, parts of sentences, word usage, and mechanics of writing. Composition study includes developing the writing process through writing responses to literature, as well as writing informative (expository) texts, fictional narratives, personal narratives, and opinion (persuasive) pieces. Vocabulary includes correct spelling and sentence usage of commonly used words. Textual study includes basic knowledge of literary devices along with reading, comprehending, and analyzing literary and informational text.

**Objectives:** The learner will

- identify and use different parts of speech correctly.
- form a sentence correctly, punctuate appropriately, and use proper subject-verb agreement.
- write and edit an informative piece, fictional narrative, personal narrative, and opinion piece correctly.
- spell commonly used words correctly.
- successfully apply vocabulary skills.
- successfully apply thinking and listening skills.
- successfully identify literary devices within texts.
- successfully interpret and analyze texts.

**Primary Resources:**

*Triumph Learning (Common Core Coach, Common Core Support Coach, Performance Coach)*

NoRedInk.com

*Vocabulary for Achievement 2<sup>nd</sup> Course Great Source*

Novel: *The Outsiders*

AR Tests

Various software, PowerPoint Presentations, DVDs, worksheets, outside reading novels, and Internet sites

**Behavior Policy:** The classroom should be a learning environment, and behavior which disrupts the learning process is not acceptable. Possible consequences for disruptive behavior may include detention, notification of parents, conferencing with principal, or other appropriate action. Students should read and be familiar with the Stanberry R-II handbook, which sets forth many guidelines for behavior.

**Grading:** Quarterly grading will be weighted as follows: Tests - 60%; Homework/Classwork - 40%

**Other assessment issues include:**

- Written assignments are due at the beginning of the hour on the date requested. Homework turned in within 24 hours of being due will receive 75% credit. Homework that is turned in after 24 hours of being due will receive 50% credit.
- Assignments given before a student's absence are due upon the student's return to school.
- Students will not be given credit for assignments on which they cheat or help others cheat. Cheating includes plagiarism.
- One AR test is required each quarter. Test must be taken in Mrs. Kelley's presence.

**Classroom Rules:**

- No candy or food in the classroom unless you have permission from Mrs. Kelley and have brought enough for everyone.
- You may bring a drink to class as long as it is in a container with a lid. Remember, if you make a mess, you clean it up.
- You will NOT be leaving the room during regular class time. The only exceptions to this rule are to see the nurse or go to the office. This rule is for your own good, my friend!
- The classroom door will remain locked at all times. KNOCK if you need to enter. Do not jiggle the door knob.
- You must be in your seat when the bell rings to end class.
- When a student knows in advance that he or she is going to be late or absent, whether for an appointment or a field trip, it is THE STUDENT'S responsibility to let the teacher know and THE STUDENT'S responsibility to get the assignment BEFORE the event. If an assignment is due on the day of a prearranged absence, it should be turned in BEFORE leaving school. (This courtesy helps both the student and the teacher.)

I have read and understand the information outlined in Mrs. Kelley's 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts Syllabus.

Student Signature & date	
Parent Signature & date	
Parent email address	
Parent cell phone number	