

**Course:** Literacy (Grades 8 and 9)

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### Course Description:

English Language Arts is a foundational curriculum that equips students with the language and literacy skills for success in school, community, career, and life.

Developing literacy skills will provide an opportunity for students to enhance their Language Arts skills. Throughout, the course will focus on targeted skills development with regards to reading comprehension, fluency, paragraph composition, and writing mechanics.

The primary goal of the course is to build student confidence and encourage growth. To ensure that students have a successful experience, program delivery will be engaging, collaborative and interactive. Students will be introduced to a variety of texts including news and magazine articles, accessible novels, video clips, poetry and more. To support diverse learners, including kinesthetic and visual learners, classroom activities will include group work, arts and crafts, games and hands-on projects.

Inquiry question:

How do I know I am growing as a learner?

### Summer Learning Beliefs:

Summer Learning provides an engaging learning environment where all students can challenge themselves academically and fulfill their learning goals. To ensure this, students will:

- abide by the student Code of Conduct
- adhere to the Academic Honesty policy
- adhere to the Summer Learning Student Engagement policy
- respect themselves and others
- attend every class and be punctual
- inquire, think, and participate to the best of their ability
- access technology in class when instructed to do so and for learning purposes only
- challenge themselves and have fun learning

*All Summer Learning policies can be accessed at:*

*<https://www.sd44.ca/school/summer/policies/Pages/default>*

Course Syllabus:

<p><b>Competencies</b></p>	<p>What the students will do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehend and connect (reading, listening, viewing)</li> <li>• Create and communicate (writing, speaking, representing)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Summative Assessments</b></p>	<p>What the students will understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through formative tasks such as group discussions and games, reading &amp; writing assignments, self &amp; peer editing sessions, presentations, projects, etc.</li> <li>• The curricular competencies (reading, writing, speaking) by reflecting on their progress through a Portfolio Project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Content</b></p>	<p>What the students will know:</p> <p>Story/text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Functions &amp; Purposes of text</li> <li>• Literary Elements: characterization, character types, story and setting</li> <li>• Relevance, accuracy, reliability</li> </ul> <p>Strategies and processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading Strategies: using context clues; visualizing; questioning; predicting; previewing text; summarizing; making inferences</li> <li>• Oral Language Strategies: asking questions to clarify, listening for specifics, expressing opinions, staying on topic</li> <li>• Metacognitive Strategies: talking and thinking about learning to develop awareness of self as a reader and as a writer</li> <li>• Writing Processes: revising, editing, considering audience</li> </ul> <p>Language Features, Structures, and Conventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paragraphing: compositions that are characterized by unity, development, and coherence</li> <li>• Syntax and Sentence Fluency: use of a mix of simple, compound, and complex sentences; correct pronoun use; subject-verb agreement; use of transitional words; and awareness of run-on sentences and sentence fragments</li> <li>• Conventions: common practices in all standard punctuation use, in capitalization, in quoting, and in Canadian spelling</li> </ul>

## Evaluation:

Students who meet expectations can...

- Actively contribute to group discussions and games
- Use reading strategies to understand, connect to and interpret texts
- Use critical thinking skills to generate points and examples
- Organize ideas and construct fluent responses in writing
- Participate in self & peer editing sessions
- Meaningfully reflect on growth through completion of portfolio project

Students will not receive a letter grade or percentage for this course. Based on completion of assignments and final assessments, students will be assessed as either Meeting/ Not Meeting Expectations.

## Celebration of learning:

The 2019 Celebration of Learning is shaped around "Connections".

Throughout the course, students will be introduced a variety of thematic concepts under the heading, "Connections". Personally, students may experience growth, clarity of identity, development, and communication skills as a result of course activities. Thematically, they will explore concepts such as perspective, equality, and justice within the course novel. They will demonstrate their awareness and understanding of these concepts during the Celebration of Learning event on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Resources:

Binder
Lined paper
Pens, pencils, erasers, and highlighters (multiple colours)