

Eighth Grade Literacy

An eighth grade student is expected to

Construct a portfolio which provides evidence of growth in reading, writing and speaking.

Portfolios will include:

- expository pieces
- narrative pieces
- evidence of reading
- evidence of speaking
- reflection about the portfolio's contents

Reading

Be a self-motivated reader willing to explore unfamiliar genres

Maintain an annotated bibliography of self-selected reading material

Read and discuss variety of genres including novels, short stories, essays, and various forms of poetry

Identify significant literary devices (e.g., symbolism, metaphor, dialect, irony) that define a writer's style

Identify and analyze the theme, mood, and conflict in a literary work

Use compare and contrast strategies to evaluate works of fiction and non-fiction

Connect reading content with prior knowledge and experience

Summarize and paraphrase information

Analyze common persuasive techniques

Display fluency, intonation, and some dramatic interpretation when reading orally

Continue to use comprehension strategies such as rereading, questioning, reading with others, predicting and confirming

Increase vocabulary by studying words in context

Writing

Students are able to write in a variety of genres, demonstrating competency in

- creating an organizing structure appropriate to a specific purpose, audience, and content
- revising and analyzing own drafts to further develop ideas and voice
- self-evaluating written work against a standard
- applying the rules and mechanics of standard written English

Uses a variety of sentence structures, careful word choice, and thoughtful transitions

between paragraphs to make writing effective and interesting

Plan and conduct an information search, combining print and Internet sources, to compose individual interpretations of information and effectively use supporting citations

LISTENING AND SPEAKING

Listens respectfully and responds thoughtfully to other points of view

Presents material in a clear and organized manner

Uses effective fluent delivery techniques to engage the listener

Uses language including visuals which are clear, audible and appropriate for the audience

Presents effectively variety of oral presentations

Evaluates the message and credibility of a speaker