

**Language Arts 8 Essential Learnings (2016-17)**

<b>Unit</b>	<b>Students will understand that...</b>	<b>Students will know...</b>	<b>Students will be able to...</b>
<b>Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following the rules of English grammar and usage establishes credibility.</li> <li>People following the rules of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling to communicate clearly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreement</li> <li>Homophones</li> <li>Run-on sentences</li> <li>Sentence fragments</li> <li>Subject and Predicate</li> <li>Active and passive voice</li> <li>Parts of speech</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Write in the active and passive voice.</li> <li>Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense and number.</li> <li>Use punctuation (comma, ellipsis, dash) to indicate a pause or break.</li> <li>Spell correctly.</li> <li>Write in complete sentences.</li> </ul>
<b>Independent Reading</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading style depends on purpose.</li> <li>Reading benefits you in numerous ways.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choose their own books to read.</li> <li>Read favorite authors/genres as well as for variety and challenge.</li> <li>Read regularly from an independent reading book.</li> </ul>
<b>Discussion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deep discussion dwells on current idea before moving onto a new one.</li> <li>Articulating one's thoughts builds critical thinking skills</li> <li>There are multiple valid viewpoints.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active listening</li> <li>Inferential vs. literal questioning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respond to ideas rather than who said it.</li> <li>Use prepared notes to contribute to discussion.</li> <li>Practice active listening.</li> <li>Lead small group discussion.</li> <li>Ask questions that prompt deep discussion.</li> <li>Summarize another student's viewpoint.</li> </ul>
<b>Literary Analysis</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Literary analysis allows readers to interact with texts.</li> <li>A specific examination of literary elements reveals more than a surface-level interpretation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analysis</li> <li>Annotate</li> <li>Interpretation</li> <li>Literary Elements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annotate a text using active reading strategies to show critical thinking.</li> <li>Articulate an analysis that uses textual evidence to make an interpretation.</li> </ul>
<b>Literary Elements</b>	Writers use literary elements to enhance and structure a meaningful text.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conflict types</li> <li>Plot elements</li> <li>Characterization</li> <li>Point-of-view</li> <li>Setting</li> <li>Mood</li> <li>Tone</li> <li>Imagery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and explain the purpose of various literary elements.</li> </ul>

Nonfiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not all nonfiction is true.</li> <li>• Readers approach nonfiction with an active/questioning stance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main idea or thesis</li> <li>• Bias</li> <li>• Nonfiction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find the main idea.</li> <li>• Identify an author's bias.</li> <li>• Analyze the evidence an author uses to support the main idea.</li> <li>• Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the author's argument.</li> </ul>
Persuasion and Argumentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writers make effective arguments in their writing by explaining how a claim is supported by reasoning and evidence.</li> <li>• Claims are most effective when based on reasonable and widely-accepted premises.</li> <li>• Successful persuasive writers anticipate objections that people with opposing views might raise, and writers present counterarguments to refute those objections.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Credibility</li> <li>• Bias</li> <li>• Contrast and counter</li> <li>• Logical reasoning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize how and why a persuasive argument is effective.</li> <li>• Articulate an argument that showcases a clear claim that is supported by evidence and addresses an opposing counter argument</li> <li>• Develop an argument that provides reasons and evidence that back the claim, could include facts, statistics, examples, and/or quotations from experts.</li> </ul>
Poetry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writers study poetry to better appreciate the artistry of words and the play and flexibility of language.</li> <li>• Poets use figurative language to convey multiple levels of meaning.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stanza</li> <li>• Line breaks</li> <li>• Figurative language: simile, metaphor, personification</li> <li>• Imagery</li> <li>• Allusion</li> <li>• Rhythm patterns</li> <li>• Onomatopoeia</li> <li>• Alliteration</li> <li>• Speaker</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze a poem for its figurative language and its theme or message.</li> <li>• Write a poem that follows a set of rules (pattern).</li> <li>• Defend their interpretations of a poem using evidence from the text.</li> </ul>
Public Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Speakers vary their physical and vocal performance based on their audience.</li> <li>• Speakers change their writing to make it easy to present their ideas without reading word for word.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage presence or framing</li> <li>• Physical cues</li> <li>• Facial cues</li> <li>• Vocal cues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark up the text they will present in anticipation of their speech.</li> <li>• Speak using appropriate physical, facial, and vocal cues, as well as stage presence or framing.</li> <li>• Practice and prepare to deliver a more effective speech.</li> </ul>

<b>Research</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Researchers set an adequate scope for gathering information.</li> <li>• Questions drive research.</li> <li>• Two sources can be credible but conflicting.</li> <li>• The purpose of research is to support ideas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statistics</li> <li>• Summarizing vs. Paraphrasing</li> <li>• Plagiarism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use key-words to generate useful research.</li> <li>• Use MLA citation style.</li> <li>• Include only relevant sources and information.</li> <li>• Balance their own thoughts with supporting information.</li> <li>• Recognize conflicting information.</li> <li>• Objectively summarize key points of research.</li> </ul>
<b>Short Fiction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compelling narratives contain ideas that are organized and paced effectively.</li> <li>• Storytelling lets writers explore their world and make meaning of it to share with others for a purpose.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dialogue (mechanics)</li> <li>• Past and present tense</li> <li>• Scene pacing</li> <li>• Point-of-view</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Features a scene or series of scenes.</li> <li>• Establishes a conflict.</li> <li>• Develops characters who change.</li> <li>• Controls pacing through dialogue, action, thought, and detail.</li> <li>• Reveals a theme.</li> <li>• Uses a consistent point-of-view and tense.</li> <li>• Has a beginning, middle, and end</li> </ul>
<b>Theme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theme is developed by many elements of a story.</li> <li>• Beyond a story's subject, the theme explores a message about life, the world, and/or human nature.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theme</li> <li>• Symbolism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generalize a theme from a text that applies to readers, not just characters.</li> <li>• Cite multiple pieces of evidence to support the development of a theme over the course of a text.</li> <li>• Differentiate subject and theme.</li> </ul>
<b>Vocabulary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Words empower us to express ourselves and understand the world.</li> <li>• Writers choose specific words to convey meaning.</li> <li>• Readers and writers use a common language to discuss a text.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Denotation</li> <li>• Connotation</li> <li>• Morphemes</li> <li>• Others TBD</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use context clues to identify unknown words.</li> <li>• Use morphemes to identify unknown words.</li> <li>• Distinguish between positive and negative connotation</li> <li>• Use words in the correct part of speech.</li> </ul>
<b>Writing Process</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revising is rereading and rethinking.</li> <li>• Prewriting prepares you for successful writing.</li> <li>• Writers vary their voice to fit their audience and purpose.</li> <li>• Writers improve by emulating other writers.</li> <li>• Writers organize their writing based on their content and audience.</li> <li>• Articulating one's thoughts through writing promotes critical thinking skills.</li> <li>• Drafting requires stamina.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Emulate</li> <li>• Constructive criticism</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use models for emulating effective writing.</li> <li>• Reflect on their improvements as writers.</li> <li>• Respond to the writing of other students with praise, questions, and constructive criticism.</li> <li>• Develop and revise their writing for growth.</li> <li>• Write for extended periods with stamina.</li> </ul>