

Knowledge & Employability
English Language Arts
2015 - 2016

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Course Description

This course is designed to provide students with opportunities to practice, strengthen, and master skills in the area of English Language Arts. By participating in projects and activities in the six language arts (*Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening, Viewing, and Representing*), students will explore the use of language in many situations and for many purposes.

While focusing on opportunities to improve and master language and communication skills, students will develop competencies such as critical thinking, problem solving, innovation, collaboration, self-directed learning, and information and media literacy.

General Outcomes (as outlined in the Program of Studies)

1. Explore thoughts, feelings, ideas and experiences
2. Comprehend and respond personally, critically, and creatively to oral, print, and other media texts
3. Manage ideas and information
4. Enhance the clarity and artistry of communication
5. Respect, support, and collaborate with others

Units of Study

The units of study listed below are tentative and may change due to interest and skills level of the students. Parents and student will be notified of any major changes.

1. *Novel studies*: Students will develop vocabulary, comprehension, and listening skills.
2. *Expository & Persuasive Writing*: Students will develop content, organization, sentence structure, vocabulary, and writing conventions in a variety of written assignments.
3. *Media texts*: Students will analyze and respond to a variety of media texts.
4. *Projects and activities*: Students will develop language and learning skills.

Student Materials

- Binder with loose leaf
- Writing implements – pens, pencils, erasers, highlighters
- Project supplies – markers, scissors, glue, etc.
- Individual Student Device*

*Note: It is expected that students will have access to an educationally functional electronic device as outlined in the Beiseker Community School handbook. The

device will be used for word processing, note-taking, researching, etc. It should be charged and ready to use each day. Our school tech, Mr. Rob Adams, is available several days per week to assist with keeping personal devices functional for school purposes or in assigning a school-owned device for students to use. (A smart phone does not meet these requirements as outlined in the policy and therefore will not be allowed for classroom work.)

Evaluation and Assessment

There will be two reporting units in this second semester. Grades will reflect the work and participation to the end of each report period. Most of the work done in class is ***assessment for learning***. This is practice and rehearsal type work, which is necessary to allow students to grow and become more confident with new content and skills. These activities are very important, but do not count for a large portion of the mark. ***Assessment of learning*** activities, however, which are comprised of exams, quizzes, and major projects, do account for the majority of the mark.

At Beiseker Community School, it is our belief that a student's grade should demonstrate and reflect the student's knowledge. Therefore, we will do our best to avoid assigning a mark of zero on a task or assignment. However, if after attempts such as: phone calls home, email home, PowerSchool notification, focus block meetings, tutorials, adapted programming, administrative referral, etc., have been attended to and you have still not complied, then an incomplete or failing grade may be applied.

Overall Evaluation Breakdown:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| WRITING | 35% |
| READING | 35% |
| LISTENING, SPEAKING, & REPRESENTING | 20% |
| FINAL EXAM | 10% |

Class Expectations

1. **Attendance:** In Grades 7-9, students are expected to increase ownership of their learning. Class attendance is vital for their success, as this allows students to receive instruction and support from the teacher daily.
2. **Responsibility:** It is the student's responsibility to complete assigned work and ask for help as needed. This includes making up for missed work.
3. **Readiness:** Having necessary materials and being prepared for class ensures that students are ready to maximize their learning during designated class time.
4. **Respect:** Students are expected to treat all members of our class community with kindness and respect.
5. **Effort:** Students are expected to participate and put their best effort forward in all classroom activities.