

Cocalico School District
Year-at-a-Glance - Curriculum Overview

Department: English Language Arts

Course: Communication Arts

Grade Level: 8

Big Ideas

- Effective readers use appropriate strategies to construct meaning at or above a grade 8 text complexity.
- Critical thinkers actively and skillfully interpret, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize information from a variety of genres.
- Effective speakers and listeners respond to and develop what others have said in structured and unstructured activities.
- Effective presenters use technology to increase speaking and listening opportunities
- Effective readers and writers evaluate resources to determine reliability.
- Effective writers cite sources in research using APA format.
- Effective writers identify their purpose and choose organizational patterns, language, and literary techniques appropriately.
- Effective writers and speakers use rules of grammar and language conventions at or above the 8th grade level to support clarity of communications between writers/speakers and readers/listeners.

Units of Study	% of Course Time	Textbooks & Supplemental Materials	Assessments	Standards Addressed
Grammar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepositions • Verbs • Clauses • Gerunds • Punctuation 	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teacher Created • Study Island • Pearson <i>Literature</i> textbook 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quizzes • Warmups • Student writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CC.1.4.8.E • CC.1.4.8.F • CC.1.4.8.K • CC.1.4.8.L • CC.1.4.8.Q • CC.1.4.8.R • CC.1.5.8.E • CC.1.5.8.G
Short Stories <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements of Plot • Literary Devices • Characterization 	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short stories in the public domain • Pearson <i>Literature</i> textbook • Biographical author information • Video and audio adaptations of stories 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plot charts • Quizzes • Essay questions (TDA) • Literary Device Projects • Compare and Contrast 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CC.1.3.8.A • CC.1.3.8.B • CC.1.3.8.C • CC.1.3.8.D • CC.1.3.8.F • CC.1.3.8.H • CC.1.3.8.G • CC.1.3.8.I • CC.1.3.8.J • CC.1.3.8.K • CC.1.5.8.A • CC.1.5.8.B • CC.1.5.8.D • CC.1.5.8.E • CC.1.5.8.G
Narrative writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing character and point of view • Utilizing literary techniques to develop style • Crafting a story using elements of plot 	15%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Mysteries of Harris Burdick</i> • <i>The Chronicles of Harris</i> • Teacher created material • Hero's Journey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Narrative essay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CC.1.4.8.M • CC.1.4.8.N • CC.1.4.8.T • CC.1.4.8.O • CC.1.4.8.P • CC.1.4.8.Q • CC.1.4.8.R • CC.1.4.8.X • CC.1.5.8.A • CC.1.5.8.E • CC.1.5.8.R • CC.1.5.8.T

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<p>Argumentative writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choosing an arguable topic • Evaluating bias • Developing claim and counterclaim • Researching appropriate supporting evidence • Evaluating sources • Citing sources (APA) 	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School approved library databases • Teacher-created materials • Nonfiction library resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of examples • Written argumentative essay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CC.1.4.8.G • CC.1.4.8.H • CC.1.4.8.I • CC.1.4.8.J • CC.1.4.8.K • CC.1.4.8.L • CC.1.4.8.V • CC.1.4.8.W • CC.1.4.8.X • CC.1.5.8.A • CC.1.5.8.B • CC.1.5.8.E • CC.1.5.8.G • CC.1.5.8.S • CC.1.5.8.U • CC.1.2.8.A • CC.1.2.8.B • CC.1.2.8.C • CC.1.2.8.D • CC.1.2.8.E • CC.1.2.8.F • CC.1.2.8.G • CC.1.2.8.H • CC.1.2.8.I • CC.1.2.8.J • CC.1.2.8.K • CC.1.2.8.L
<p>Expository writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and introduce the topic clearly • Draw evidence from literary texts to support analysis • Develop and analyze the topic with relevant, well-chosen textual details • Organize ideas and use appropriate and varied transitions 	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pearson <i>Literature</i> materials • Online examples • Library resources • Various media versions for compare/contrast 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written expository essay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CC.1.4.8.A • CC.1.4.8.B • CC.1.4.8.C • CC.1.4.8.D • CC.1.4.8.E • CC.1.4.8.F • CC.1.4.8.T • CC.1.4.8.X • CC.1.5.8.A • CC.1.5.8.E • CC.1.5.8.F • CC.1.4.8.S
<p>Drama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatic irony 	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pearson <i>Literature</i> materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test and quizzes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CC.1.3.8.C • CC.1.2.8.A • CC.1.2.8.C • CC.1.2.8.L • CC.1.3.8.A • CC.1.3.8.B • CC.1.3.8.I • CC.1.3.8.K • CC.1.5.8.A • CC.1.5.8.E • CC.1.5.8.G • CC.1.3.8.D
<p>Poetry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poetic devices 	5%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poems in the public domain • Pearson <i>Literature</i> materials • Poets.org • National Poem in Your Pocket materials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poem in your Pocket Activity • Quizzes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CC.1.5.8.A • CC.1.3.8.A • CC.1.3.8.F • CC.1.3.8.K • CC.1.5.8.G • CC.1.3.8.B • CC.1.3.8.I

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teacher created materials		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CC.1.3.8.J• CC.1.5.8.E
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Eagle P.A.C.T. Course Connections:

In Communication Arts, students focus on analysis, reflection, and logical reasoning when reading and writing. They incorporate feedback effectively when revising/editing writing. Communication is the core of communication arts. Students work in diverse groups on projects in this course.