

English Language Arts Curriculum

Vision

An effective ELA program will equip students with the tools necessary to successfully navigate their world.

Beliefs

Within each Language Arts classroom, students will:

- **use reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing, and visualization to skillfully communicate and construct meaning.**
- **explore universal themes, issues, and ideas.**
- **connect the learning to real life, fostering lifelong and proficient use of the language arts.**
- **identify standards to evaluate quality in oral, written, and visual text.**

Michigan Curriculum Framework Standards of Authentic Instruction

Higher-Order Thinking: Instruction involves students in manipulating information and ideas by synthesizing, generalizing, explaining or arriving at conclusions that produce new meaning and understandings for them.

Deep Knowledge: Instruction addresses central ideas of a topic or discipline with enough thoroughness to explore connections and relationships and to produce relatively complex understanding.

Substantive Conversation: Students engage in extended conversational exchanges with the teacher and/or peers about subject matter in a way that builds an improved and shared understanding of ideas or topics.

Connections to the World Beyond the Classroom: Students make connections between substantive knowledge and either public problems or personal experiences.

MCF - The Learning Expectations

A student possessing the skills meeting Michigan Learning Expectations will, across all academic and nonacademic content areas, be prepared to:

1. **Gather Information.** Research and retrieve information from a wide range of primary and secondary sources in various forms and contexts.
2. **Understanding Information.** Understand, synthesize, and evaluate information in an accurate, holistic, and comprehensive fashion.
3. **Analyze Issues.** Review a question or issue by identifying, analyzing, and evaluating various considerations, arguments, and perspectives.
4. **Draw and Justify Conclusions.** Draw and justify conclusions, decisions, and solutions to questions and issues by, among other things, using reason and evidence, specifying goals and objectives, identifying resources and constraints, generating and assessing alternatives, considering intended and unintended consequences, choosing appropriate alternatives, and evaluating results.
5. **Organize and Communicate Information.** Organize, present, and communicate information in a variety of media in a logical, effective, and comprehensive manner.
6. **Think and Communicate Critically.** Read, listen, think, and speak critically in connection with any subject with clarity, accuracy, precision, relevance, depth, breadth, and logic.
7. **Learn and Consider Issues Collaboratively.** Engage in shared inquiry processes, in a collaborative and team-based fashion with persons of diverse backgrounds and abilities.
8. **Learn Independently.** Engage in learning in an active, exploratory, independent, and self-directed fashion.
9. **Create Knowledge.** Create knowledge by raising and identifying previously unconsidered or unidentified questions and issues: creating new primary knowledge; and creating new approaches to solving or considering questions and issues.
10. **Act Ethically.** Adhere to the highest intellectual and ethical standards in conducting all of the above.