8th Grade American Online School

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM

Developing Critical Readers, Thoughtful Writers, and Engaged Digital Citizens

Version May/2025

1. Introduction

The Role of English Language Arts Education in 8th Grade

In 8th grade, students develop foundational and advanced skills in reading, writing, speaking, and digital literacy to become thoughtful communicators in both academic and real-world settings. This curriculum builds on prior knowledge and prepares students for the rigor of high school English by integrating literary analysis, writing fluency, media evaluation, and self-directed learning. Students explore diverse texts and perspectives, refine their writing process, and engage actively in collaborative and individual tasks.

By the end of this course, students will:

✔ **Read and analyze a range of literary and informational texts with critical insight.**

✔ **Compose narrative, informative, and argumentative pieces with clarity and structure.**

✔ **Build vocabulary and apply grammar conventions for effective communication.**

✔ **Engage in formal and informal discussions using multimedia tools.**

✔ **Practice digital citizenship and evaluate information across media.**

✔ **Cultivate metacognitive and collaborative learning habits.**

2. Core Competence Areas

ELA.1 Reading and Literary Analysis

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

✔ **Read and analyze literature from various genres including novel, short story, poetry, and drama.**

✔ **Interpret themes, character development, and figurative language.**

✔ **Compare literary elements across multiple texts.**

Competencies

ELA.1.A.1 – Citing textual evidence and making inferences.

ELA.A.2 – Analyzing theme development and central ideas.

ELA.1.A.3 – Examining character development through dialogue and events.

ELA.1.A.4 – Interpreting figurative language and its impact on tone.

ELA.1.A.5 – Comparing text structures and narrative styles.

ELA.1.A.6 – Evaluating author's perspective and literary craft.

ELA.1.A.7 – Analyzing multimedia interpretations of literary texts.

ELA.1.A.8 – Connecting contemporary and traditional texts.

ELA.2 Reading Informational Texts

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

✔ **Evaluate nonfiction texts for structure, purpose, and rhetoric.**

✔ **Analyze arguments and claims using evidence.**

✔ **Understand how text features contribute to meaning.**

Competencies

ELA.2.A.1 – Extracting key ideas with evidence.

ELA.2.A.2 – Identifying central ideas and summarizing objectively.

ELA.2.A.3 – Analyzing relationships among ideas, people, and events.

ELA.2.A.4 – Interpreting technical and domain-specific vocabulary.

ELA.2.A.5 – Evaluating structure and development of ideas.

ELA.2.A.6 – Assessing author's viewpoint and response to counterclaims.

ELA.2.A.7 – Comparing information across different media.

ELA.2.A.8 – Evaluating arguments and reasoning.

ELA.2.A.9 – Contrasting conflicting viewpoints in texts.

ELA.3 Writing and Composition

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

✔ **Write argumentative, informative, and narrative texts.**

✔ **Conduct research and present findings clearly.**

✔ **Use technology in the writing and revision process.**

Competencies

ELA.3.A.1 – Writing evidence-based argumentative essays.

ELA.3.A.2 – Composing informative/explanatory texts.

ELA.3.A.3 – Crafting narrative texts with structure and detail.

ELA.3.A.4 – Adapting writing to purpose, audience, and task.

ELA.3.A.5 – Refining writing through the editing process.

ELA.3.A.6 – Publishing digitally and integrating multimedia.

ELA.3.A.7 – Conducting focused research projects.

ELA.3.A.8 – Evaluating source credibility and synthesizing information.

ELA.3.A.9 – Applying textual evidence in written analysis.

ELA.3.A.10 – Developing writing stamina across genres.

ELA.4 Speaking and Communication

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

✔ **Participate in collaborative discussions and debates.**

✔ **Deliver structured presentations with multimedia.**

✔ **Listen and respond critically in verbal exchanges.**

Competencies

ELA.4.A.1 – Participating in academic and collaborative discussions.

ELA.4.A.2 – Analyzing media messages and presentation formats.

ELA.4.A.3 – Evaluating speaker credibility and argumentation.

ELA.4.A.4 – Presenting clear, evidence-supported ideas.

ELA.4.A.5 – Integrating digital elements into oral communication.

ELA.4.A.6 – Adjusting speech for various contexts.

ELA.5 Grammar and Language Conventions

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

✔ **Demonstrate mastery of grammar, usage, punctuation, and mechanics.**

✔ **Expand academic and domain-specific vocabulary.**

✔ **Interpret and use figurative language appropriately.**

Competencies

ELA.5.A.1 – Using grammar and syntax accurately.

ELA.5.A.2 – Applying punctuation rules effectively.

ELA.5.A.3 – Choosing precise and contextually appropriate language.

ELA.5.A.4 – Using word analysis and context for vocabulary development.

ELA.5.A.5 – Understanding and applying figurative language.

ELA.5.A.6 – Acquiring and using content-specific vocabulary.

ELA.6 Media and Information Literacy

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

✔ **Critically evaluate media sources and messages.**

✔ **Create media products for target audiences.**

✔ **Recognize and avoid bias and misinformation.**

Competencies

ELA.6.A.1 – Evaluating credibility of media and information sources.

ELA.6.A.2 – Analyzing media techniques and influence strategies.

ELA.6.A.3 – Identifying bias, propaganda, and misinformation.

ELA.6.A.4 – Comparing media formats for effectiveness.

ELA.6.A.5 – Producing original media content.

ELA.6.A.6 – Analyzing media's societal impact.

ELA.7 Digital Literacy and Research

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

✔ **Use technology to research, collaborate, and communicate.**

✔ **Apply ethical standards when using digital tools.**

✔ **Create digital content with purpose and clarity.**

Competencies

ELA.7.A.1 – Using digital tools for research and evaluation.

ELA.7.A.2 – Collaborating with peers using digital platforms.

ELA.7.A.3 – Practicing responsible digital citizenship.

ELA.7.A.4 – Evaluating online content for credibility and bias.

ELA.7.A.5 – Designing effective digital presentations.

ELA.7.A.6 – Solving problems using technology tools.

ELA.8 Self-Directed Learning and Collaboration

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this unit, students will be able to:

✓ **Develop self-awareness in learning.**

✓ **Collaborate effectively in diverse teams.**

✓ **Give and receive constructive feedback.**

Competencies

ELA.8.A.1 – Setting personal learning goals and tracking progress.

ELA.8.A.2 – Monitoring comprehension and adjusting strategies.

ELA.8.A.3 – Reflecting on learning and performance.

ELA.8.A.4 – Working cooperatively with others across cultures.

ELA.8.A.5 – Leading collaborative projects and discussions.

ELA.8.A.6 – Exchanging constructive feedback for improvement.

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3. Assessment and Evaluation

Formative Assessments – Monitoring Learning Progress

✓ **Reading journals and response logs.**

✓ **Writing drafts and peer reviews.**

✓ **Speaking activities and participation rubrics.**

Summative Assessments – Mastery Demonstration

✓ **Analytical and argumentative essays.**

✓ **Digital and oral presentations.**

✓ **Quizzes and comprehension tests.**

✓ **Creative writing and project submissions.**

Authentic Assessment – Real-World Relevance

✔ Research projects and media analysis.
✔ Storytelling through multimedia platforms.
✔ Public speaking or debate on community issues.

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4. Instructional Strategies for Online Learning

Inquiry-Based and Thematic Learning

✔ Center units on core themes like identity, justice, or resilience.

✔ Use essential questions and guided discovery.

Workshop-Based Instruction

✔ Integrate mini-lessons, independent practice, conferencing, and peer collaboration.

✔ Employ scaffolded models and graphic organizers.

Technology-Integrated Learning

✔ Use Google Docs, Flipgrid, and Padlet for collaborative and multimodal expression.

✔ Annotate digital texts using tools like Hypothes.is.

Inclusive and Responsive Learning Environment

✔ Foster respectful dialogue and support linguistic diversity.

✔ Encourage creativity, curiosity, and student voice.