



Wolcott Public Schools

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Middle School Curriculum
Grade 8
Language Arts
Writing



Children are our Future...

Acknowledgements

Curriculum Writers:

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We acknowledge and celebrate the professionalism, expertise, and diverse perspectives of these teachers. Their contributions to this curriculum enrich the educational experiences of all Wolcott students.

Dr. Gail A. Gilmore
Assistant Superintendent

Date of Presentation to the Board of Education: April 12, 2010

Language Arts – Grade 8
Writing

LANGUAGE ARTS – GRADE 8 WRITING

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Wolcott Public Schools is to develop in each student the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to become a productive member of the community and a contributing member to society.

Departmental Philosophy:

The philosophy of Language Arts at Tyrrell Middle School is to facilitate and teach literacy using a variety of genre. This will ensure that students become life-long, independent learners who will read and think critically and creatively to construct meaning, collaborate, and communicate effectively to discover themselves, their thoughts, their feelings, and their world.

Course Description:

The Language Arts curriculum at Tyrrell Middle School is designed to meet the literacy and communication needs of each student. Students will have experiences with various genre in order to develop effective communication skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing using varied exemplary teaching strategies to meet the needs of all students. Emphasis will be placed on the development of metacognition and critical thinking which will enable students to become successful, life-long learners

Language Arts – Grade 8: Writing

8th Grade Writing – Marking Period 1

<i>Performance Standards</i>	<i>Sample Activities</i>	<i>Assessment Strategies</i>	<i>Resources</i>
<p>3. Communicating with Others. Students produce written, oral and visual texts to express, develop and substantiate ideas and experiences.</p> <p>3.1 Students use descriptive, narrative, expository, persuasive and poetic modes.</p> <p>3.2 Students prepare, publish and/or present work appropriate to audience, purpose and task.</p> <p>4. Applying English Language Convention. Students apply the conventions of standard English in oral, written and visual communication.</p> <p>4.1 Student use knowledge of their language and culture to improve competency in English.</p> <p>4.2 Students speak and write using standard language structures and diction appropriate to audience and task.</p> <p>4.3 Students use standard English for composing and revising text.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Writing</p> <p>Focus: Framework for Persuasive Essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review elements of persuasive essay • Review persuasive terms • Prewriting • Audience/Purpose • Thesis statements • Main arguments with supporting details • Elaboration • Organizing Ideas • Revising <p style="text-align: center;">Grammar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 10 – Subject, Predicate, and Kinds of Sentences • Chapter 11 – Nouns, Pronouns, and Adjectives • Teacher Modeling • Completion of chapter assignments • Graphic Organizers • Sentence Diagramming <p style="text-align: center;">Vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antonym/Synonym • Sentence Writing • Roots and Derivatives • Incorporation into written work 	<p style="text-align: center;">Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rough Drafts • Published Pieces (Scored with CMT Rubric) • Journal Entries • Homework • Class Work • Writing Conferences • Peer editing and revising • Teacher Observations <p style="text-align: center;">Grammar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quizzes • Chapter Tests • Evidence in Writing • Teacher Observations • Homework <p style="text-align: center;">Vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quizzes • Unit Tests • Evidence in Writing • Homework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holt <i>Elements of Language Second Course</i> and all corresponding materials including grammar, writing, and vocabulary • Website: go.hrw.com GO Keyword: EOLang • <i>Vocabulary Through Pleasurable Reading Book 2</i> • <i>Word Wealth</i> – honors classes • Computer Lab

Language Arts – Grade 8: Writing

8th Grade Writing – Marking Period 2

<i>Performance Standards</i>	<i>Sample Activities</i>	<i>Assessment Strategies</i>	<i>Resources</i>
<p>3. Communicating with Others. Students produce written, oral and visual texts to express, develop and substantiate ideas and experiences.</p> <p>3.1 Students use descriptive, narrative, expository, persuasive and poetic modes.</p> <p>3.2 Students prepare, publish and/or present work appropriate to audience, purpose and task.</p> <p>4. Applying English Language Convention. Students apply the conventions of standard English in oral, written and visual communication.</p> <p>4.1 Student use knowledge of their language and culture to improve competency in English.</p> <p>4.2 Students speak and write using standard language structures and diction appropriate to audience and task.</p> <p>4.3 Students use standard English for composing and revising text.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Writing</p> <p>Focus: Framework for Persuasive Essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate knowledge of elements of persuasive writing • Demonstrate knowledge of persuasive terms • Prewriting • Audience/Purpose • Thesis statements • Main arguments with supporting details • Elaboration • Organizing Ideas • Revising • Writing Samples/Rubric <p style="text-align: center;">Grammar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 12 – Verbs, Adverbs, Prepositions, Conjunctions, and Interjections • Chapter 13 – Complements • Chapter 14 – Phrases • Teacher Modeling • Chapter assignments • Graphic Organizers • Sentence Diagramming <p style="text-align: center;">Vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antonym/Synonym • Sentence Writing • Roots and Derivatives • Incorporation into written work 	<p style="text-align: center;">Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rough Drafts • Published Pieces (Scored with CMT Rubric) • Journal Entries • Homework • Class Work • Writing Conferences • Peer editing and revising • Teacher Observations <p style="text-align: center;">Grammar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quizzes • Chapter Tests • Evidence in Writing • Teacher Observations • Homework <p style="text-align: center;">Vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quizzes • Unit Tests • Evidence in Writing • Homework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holt <i>Elements of Language Second Course</i> and all corresponding materials including grammar, writing, and vocabulary • Website: go.hrw.com GO Keyword: EOLang • <i>Vocabulary Through Pleasurable Reading Book 2</i> • <i>Word Wealth</i> – honors classes • Computer Lab

Language Arts – Grade 8: Writing

8th Grade Writing – Marking Period 3

<i>Performance Standards</i>	<i>Sample Activities</i>	<i>Assessment Strategies</i>	<i>Resources</i>
<p>3. Communicating with Others. Students produce written, oral and visual texts to express, develop and substantiate ideas and experiences.</p> <p>3.1 Students use descriptive, narrative, expository, persuasive and poetic modes.</p> <p>3.2 Students prepare, publish and/or present work appropriate to audience, purpose and task.</p> <p>4. Applying English Language Convention. Students apply the conventions of standard English in oral, written and visual communication.</p> <p>4.1 Student use knowledge of their language and culture to improve competency in English.</p> <p>4.2 Students speak and write using standard language structures and diction appropriate to audience and task.</p> <p>4.3 Students use standard English for composing and revising text.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Writing Focus: Persuasive Essay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prewriting • Audience/Purpose • Take a stand on an issue • Thesis statements • Support an opinion with reasons and evidence • Elaboration • Organization of Ideas • Write in an appropriate voice and tone • Add sentence variety • Revise <p style="text-align: center;">Grammar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 17 – Agreement • Chapter 18 – Using Verbs Correctly • Chapter 19 – Using Pronouns Correctly • Chapter 20 – Using Modifiers Correctly • Chapters 22 – 24 Capital Letters and Punctuation • Teacher Modeling • Completion of chapter assignments • Graphic Organizers • Sentence Diagramming 	<p style="text-align: center;">Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rough Drafts • Published Pieces (Scored with CMT Rubric) • Journal Entries • Homework • Class Work • Writing Conferences • Peer editing and revising • Teacher Observations <p style="text-align: center;">Grammar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quizzes • Chapter Tests • Evidence in Writing • Teacher Observations • Homework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Holt Elements of Language Second Course</i> and all corresponding materials including grammar, writing, and vocabulary • Website: go.hrw.com GO Keyword: EOLang • <i>Vocabulary Through Pleasurable Reading</i> Book 2 • <i>Word Wealth</i> – honors classes • Computer Lab • Coach Book

Language Arts – Grade 8: Writing

<i>Performance Standards</i>	<i>Sample Activities</i>	<i>Assessment Strategies</i>	<i>Resources</i>
<p style="text-align: center;">8th Grade Writing Marking Period 3 (Continued)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antonym/Synonym • Sentence Writing • Roots and Derivatives • Incorporation into written work <p style="text-align: center;">CMT Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editing/Revising • Writing Samples/Rubric 	<p style="text-align: center;">Vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quizzes • Unit Tests • Evidence in Writing • Homework <p style="text-align: center;">CMT Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coach Book Assignments including editing and revising, open-ended questions, and sample writing prompts 	

Language Arts – Grade 8: Writing

Pacing Guide

8th Grade Writing – Marking Period 4

<i>Performance Standards</i>	<i>Sample Activities</i>	<i>Assessment Strategies</i>	<i>Resources</i>
<p>3. Communicating with Others. Students produce written, oral and visual texts to express, develop and substantiate ideas and experiences.</p> <p>3.1 Students use descriptive, narrative, expository, persuasive and poetic modes.</p> <p>3.2 Students prepare, publish and/or present work appropriate to audience, purpose and task.</p> <p>4. Applying English Language Convention. Students apply the conventions of standard English in oral, written and visual communication.</p> <p>4.1 Student use knowledge of their language and culture to improve competency in English.</p> <p>4.2 Students speak and write using standard language structures and diction appropriate to audience and task.</p> <p>4.3 Students use standard English for composing and revising text.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Writing</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Focus – Persuasive/Expository writing with research/sources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prewriting • Summarizing/Paraphrasing techniques and strategies • Audience/Purpose • Take a stand on an issue and/or explain a topic • Thesis statements • Persuasive - Support an opinion with reasons and evidence • Expository - Include summarized and/or paraphrased support • Elaboration • Organization of Ideas • Write in an appropriate voice and tone • Add sentence variety • Revise 	<p style="text-align: center;">Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rough Drafts • Published Pieces (Scored with CMT Rubric) • Journal Entries • Homework • Class Work • Writing Conferences • Teacher Observations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holt <i>Elements of Language Second Course</i> and all corresponding materials including grammar, writing, and vocabulary • Website: go.hrw.com <u>GO Keyword: EOLang</u> • <i>Vocabulary Through Pleasurable Reading</i> Book 2 • <i>Word Wealth</i> – honors classes • Computer Lab • Media Center

Language Arts – Grade 8: Writing

<i>Performance Standards</i>	<i>Sample Activities</i>	<i>Assessment Strategies</i>	<i>Resources</i>
<p style="text-align: center;">8th Grade Writing Marking Period 4 (Continued)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Grammar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 15 – Independent and Subordinate Clauses • Chapter 16 – Sentence Structure • Teacher Modeling • Completion of chapter assignments • Graphic Organizers • Sentence Diagramming • Use in writing <p style="text-align: center;">Vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antonym/Synonym • Roots and Derivatives • Sentence Writing • Incorporation into written work 	<p style="text-align: center;">Grammar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quizzes • Chapter Tests • Evidence in Writing • Teacher Observations • Homework <p style="text-align: center;">Vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quizzes • Unit Tests • Evidence in Writing • Homework 	

Language Arts – Grade 8: Writing

Pacing Guide

Marking Period 1

- *Elements of a persuasive essay*
- *Writing persuasive essays*
- *Vocabulary*
- *Grammar (Subjects, Predicates, Kinds of Sentences, Nouns, Pronouns, and Adjectives)*

Marking Period 2

- *Writing/Editing Persuasive essays*
- *Vocabulary*
- *Grammar (Verbs, Adverbs, Prepositions, Conjunctions, Interjections, Complements and Phrases)*

Marking Period 3

- *Writing/Editing Persuasive essays*
- *Vocabulary*
- *Grammar (Agreement, Using Verbs Correctly, Using Pronouns Correctly, Using Modifiers Correctly, Capital Letters and Punctuation)*
- *CMT Review*

Marking Period 4

- *Persuasive/Expository writing with research/sources*
- *Vocabulary*
- *Grammar (Independent and Subordinate Clauses, Sentence Structure)*

Language Arts – Grade 8: Writing

Essential Questions

1. How do you go from a sentence to a paragraph to an essay effectively?
2. How do you construct an effective paragraph using a variety of text structures?
3. How do you construct an effective persuasive essay?
4. How do you evaluate your writing as you take a piece through the writing process?
5. How do you use and understand new words to expand your vocabulary?
6. How do you apply the conventions of standard English to communicate effectively?
7. How can you utilize technology and other resources to enhance the writing process?
8. How can you work cooperatively with your peers to share ideas, problem solve, and complete tasks?

Language Arts – Grade 8: Writing

Skills Objectives

The students will be able to...

1. Understand and use the writing process
2. Select and use appropriate graphic organizers for planning
3. Write proficiently in different genres including- persuasive and expository
4. Use elaboration techniques
5. Recognize and use persuasive techniques
6. Incorporate sentence variety into writing
7. Apply grammatical skills to edit and revise writing for appropriate spelling, usage and mechanics
8. Participate in writing conferences
9. Cite sources
10. Learn and use new words through- context clues, examining structure and usage

Language Arts – Grade 8: Writing

Assessments

[That are aligned to the curriculum – this will be done through the data teams throughout the year – no need to do them now, I just wanted to let you know where they will go in the curriculum, as we complete them. Thank you.]