

Alexandra Junior High School
Language Arts 8
Course Description

Objectives

The course will focus on the six strands of language as defined by the Alberta curriculum: *listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing* and *representing*. These varied strands of language will promote a broad understanding of communication in students.

The objectives of language arts education in Alberta focus on preparing students to *listen, speak, read, write, view* and *represent* in order to:

- explore thoughts, ideas, feelings and experiences
- comprehend and respond personally and critically to oral, print and other mediums of communication
- manage ideas and information
- enhance the clarity and artistry of communication
- respect, support and collaborate with others

Methodologies

A variety of instructional techniques **focusing on critical inquiry** are used in the classroom: for example, analysis of historical resources, presentations, debates, dramatic re-enactments, writing within a role, and visual representation. The objective of student critical thinking is to energize their learning by moving beyond passive reception of knowledge; when they have critically analyzed, interpreted, validated and applied the knowledge of the coursework, then they will understand. *“One gains knowledge only through thinking”* (Richard Paul). This emphasis on the student as an active learner will be accomplished using individual and group study techniques.

Our department focuses on the use of major projects, allowing the student to become meaningfully involved in content. In order to do this, the social studies and language arts courses are taught by one teacher who will integrate sections of the two courses, thereby providing time for more developed projects. Our department is moving toward extensive integration of the Humanities courses, and some teachers fully combine them, using the language arts learning objectives to teach the social studies content.

Finally, there is a strong orientation in our department towards meaningful writing experiences using a formalized writing process.

Evaluation

Students' marks for each of the four report periods are based on participation in class activities, assignments, and tests. Teachers will weight these components variously, depending on their own course requirements.

The student's final grade is based on four report card marks and the final exam.

First Report - 20%

Second Report - 20%

Third Report - 20%

Fourth Report - 20%

Final Exam - 20%

Appeal Procedure

Students and parents may appeal a test or assignment mark. An appeal for a review must first be made to the teacher. A further appeal may be made to the department head, and finally to the principal.

Supplies

- Large 3-ringed binder with lined and blank paper
- Highlighters, pencil crayon set, pencils, erasers, blue/black pens

