



Course Description
Language Arts Grades 6th, 7th, 8th
Mrs. Laurie O'Toole

Course Philosophy: In Colossians 4:6, God's Word says to "Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." In accordance with God's Word, we believe that our students will be prepared to communicate effectively through speech, reading, and writing at or above grade level.

Course Goals: Students will clearly and correctly express themselves in all forms of writing, including essays, reports, poetry, and letter writing. They will understand and correctly use punctuation and other writing mechanics, as well as correctly spell and use more sophisticated vocabulary. Students will also read various forms of literature including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama, being able to identify main idea, author's purpose, and theme. Students will discuss and write about their responses to literature they have read. Students will be able to apply effective reading comprehension strategies to all of their reading, including outside book reports and articles.

Textbook: The Language of Literature, (McDougal/Littell)

Time allotment: 49 minutes per day, 5 days a week

Course content: Besides weekly spelling, grammar, and vocabulary lessons, students will apply reading strategies in the following units:

- Fiction in Literature
- Non-Fiction in Literature
- Understanding Character & Setting
- Understanding Theme, Mood, & Tone
- Understanding Plot
- Understanding History through Literature
- Poetry & Science Fiction

Areas to be evaluated: Students will be graded on class participation, weekly classwork/homework packets, quizzes, essays, book reports, oral presentations, research projects (8th grade). Students will also be assessed on their growth in the areas of school and self responsibility, like planning, organization, and study skills, all of which will be necessary in higher education. Grading scale: 100-90% = A; 89-80% = B; 79-70% = C; 69-60% = D

Additional Activities: Students will have opportunities to memorize poetry and speeches for oral presentation practice. Students will be assigned 4 book reports for outside reading, including a biography, a historical novel, and two free choice novels. Different report presentations will be assigned.