

**2010-2011  
LANGUAGE ARTS  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

The Language Arts program at Sacred Heart School consists of reading class for grade six and literature classes for grades seven and eight and English classes for all three grades.

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#### Grade 6 Reading

Grade six reading at Sacred Heart School is the continuation and culmination of the McGraw Hill reading program. There is continued attention paid to increasing comprehension and vocabulary skills with particular emphasis on the understanding and use of:

- inferences
- predictions
- synonyms and antonyms
- sequence of events
- context clues
- story elements
- drawing conclusions
- cause and effect
- point of view

#### Grade 7 and 8 Literature

Grades seven and eight literature classes enable the student to experience and share in the human experience which is expressed in language. Emphasis is on the student's response, both written and oral, to the literary genres presented. Types of literature studied are:

- novel
- short story
- poetry
- drama
- myth, folk tale and fable
- song
- non-fiction

Literary elements studied are:

- plot
- conflict
- symbol
- theme

character  
figures of speech (simile, metaphor, alliteration, allusion, personification)  
point of view  
tone  
mood  
setting  
flashback foreshadowing

Vocabulary is studied in conjunction with the available literary selections. Lists of words are taken from the current reading assignments.

The student will be guided to:

appreciate the wealth of literature available.  
include reading for pleasure as a daily activity.  
increase his/her working and reading vocabulary.  
develop and expand the desire to read both as a tool for learning in all subjects and as a pleasurable activity.  
personally respond to reading materials through reading, writing, listening and speaking.  
become active participants in choosing personal reading materials suitable for his/her interest, age and ability.

Teaching Strategies:

oral reading  
silent reading  
open discussion of materials read  
written response to literary selections  
showing and discussion of selected videos

Assessment:

question and answer exercises  
discussion  
brief reading checks  
tests and quizzes  
personal written response  
directed writing assignments

Materials:

McGraw-Hill Reading, Macmillan McGraw-Hill, 2001.  
Elements of Literature, Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 2003.  
grade 7 - First Course  
grade 8 - Second Course

grade 6 novels:

Old Yeller- Gipson

The True Confession of Charlotte Doyle- Avi

Come Sing, Jimmy Jo -Paterson

A Wrinkle in Time - L'Engle

grade 7 novels:

The Cay- Taylor

April Morning- Fast

The Contender- Lipsyte

Walk Two Moons - Creech

grade 8 novels:

The Giver - Lowry

Freak the Mighty - Philbrick

Martian Chronicles - Bradbury

or

To Kill A Mockingbird - Lee

videos

teacher generated materials

SCOPE AND SEQUENCE  
MIDDLE SCHOOL - GRADES 6, 7 AND 8  
English

Language is the means by which people communicate. English grammar is studied to enable the student to understand the structure of the language and to express himself/herself clearly and convincingly. Our students learn how language functions and then practice language skills to acquire the competence we feel is necessary to successfully express what they know and think. We hope our students will graduate with enough knowledge of all aspects of grammar to enable them to be skilled in writing conventions and to be proficient writers and speakers who are able to communicate effectively both orally and through the written word.

Grammar

The student will study and work to become proficient in the areas of:

sentence structure  
parts of speech  
prepositional phrases  
object complements  
subject complements  
clauses  
diagramming  
subject and verb agreement  
correct use of verbs  
correct use of pronouns  
correct use of modifier  
capitalization  
punctuation

Writing

The student will:

discuss, analyze and study examples of the various types of writing:

narrative  
expository  
persuasive  
study and practice the elements of process writing:  
prewriting  
first draft  
revise  
editing  
final draft  
have the opportunity to create his/ her own writing samples  
share his/her writing efforts with peers  
experience examples of professional writing

## Speaking/ listening

The student will:

prepare and present oral presentations:

book reports

recitations

practice good listening and response skills while listening to:

tapes

oral reading of stories

presentations by fellow students

Teaching strategies:

group instruction

one-on-one instruction as necessary

class discussion and interpretation of stories and novels

board work

spelling lists

supplemental materials

use of technology

use of teacher's personal materials

use of tapes and videos

question and response (written and oral)

written and oral exercises

projects

games (vocabulary and spelling bees)

Assessment:

teacher observation

test and quizzes

oral presentation

writing assignments

take home tests on novels

adjustment and accommodations made as deemed necessary

Materials:

Holt Handbook. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, New York, 2003.

English, Grammar and Composition. Harcourt Brace Jonanovich, Pub. Co., Chicago, 1988.

Daily Oral Language. Houghton Mifflin Co., 2000.

Daily Oral Analogies. Houghton Mifflin Co., 2000.

Spotlight on Writing. Random House, 1984.

Scope Magazine

supplemental materials  
tapes and videos  
teacher generated materials  
appropriate websites