

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