

# **ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS**

## **INTRODUCTION TO CURRICULUM MAPPING**

The curriculum maps for English/Language Arts provides detailed information that addresses the following areas:

### **Course Content**

Teachers collaborate and write department curriculum that is consistent with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and integrates classic literature with a wide range of culturally diverse full-length texts that focus on racial, gender, and socio-economic issues of equity. The department also offers several intensive writing and public performance courses. However, the teaching of writing and communication are integral parts of the study of literature as well.

### **Multicultural Initiatives**

The department complies with and advocates for the BAMSS (Becoming a Multicultural School System) goals. We offer heterogeneous classes in which any student may elect to work at the honors or advanced placement level.

### **Expectations for Student Learning**

The curriculum mapping demonstrates the department's alignment with the school-wide expectations for student learning, particularly those that relate directly to the language arts.

# **ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS PROGRAM**

## **7-12 GENERAL LEARNING GOALS**

### **Nature of Language**

To ensure that each student:

1. Recognizes that language is continuously changing.
2. Recognizes, comprehends, and applies English structural conventions for sentence structure, usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.
3. Applies principles of word construction and broadens vocabulary range.
4. Recognizes and appreciates cultural and linguistic diversity.
5. Understands the history of the English language and how it has been influenced by other languages.

### **Information Literacy**

To help each student develop the ability to:

1. Understand and follow directions.
2. Locate and organize materials.
3. Select appropriate reference materials.
4. Select the method of reading appropriate to a given task.
5. Employ varied research techniques (self-generated/open-ended questions, note-taking, summarizing, precise writing, and outlining).
6. Apply appropriate methods of attribution and documentation of sources.
7. Apply appropriate technology protocols when using Internet sources.

### **Communication**

To provide learners with the skills that will enable each one to:

1. Recognize that communication is an interaction, rather than a one-way process.
2. Use specific criteria to make evaluative judgements.
3. Identify fallacies of reasoning in daily situations.
4. Select the most effective genres, modes of reasoning, and styles when writing for different audiences and rhetorical purposes.
5. Utilize the writing process for all forms of composition.
6. Plan and present effective dramatic readings, recitations, and performances that demonstrate appropriate consideration of audience and purpose.
7. Develop and use rhetorical, logical, and stylistic criteria for assessing final versions of compositions and presentations.
8. Eliminate barriers to effective speaking, listening and writing.
9. Assess and increase the ability to influence others through oral and written feedback.
10. Develop fluency and clarity in written expression through syntactic correctness and variety.
11. Develop unity, coherence, and balance in writing.
12. Create vibrant expression through effective and appropriate word choice.
13. Achieve satisfaction through self-expression.

14. Show open-mindedness toward other points of view.
15. Articulate, defend, and assess personal values in dealing with controversial issues.
16. Appreciate practical and aesthetic values of writing.

### **Study of Literature**

To encourage a response to literature that will enable each student to:

1. Value reading as a source of information and enjoyment.
2. Raise the level of his or her reading comprehension through an awareness of reading strategies.
3. Appreciate and understand characters of diverse cultures, races, religions, ethnicities, and sexual orientations.
4. Understand how cultural context shapes narrative.
5. Understand the differences among the various literary genres: short story, novel, essay, biography, drama and poetry.
6. Develop skills of literary analysis: distinguishing themes, tracing character development, identifying atmosphere, mood, tone and uses of figurative language such as irony, paradox, understatement, etc.
7. Recognize literature as an individual's perception and comprehension of the human condition.
8. Cultivate aesthetic appreciation of works of literature.
9. Develop awareness of social issues.
10. Develop self-understanding through the study of literary characters.

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