**English Language Arts 8 - Course Description:**

Reading, writing, listening, and speaking are essential life skills. The middle school English

language arts curriculum focuses on developing these skills to build a foundation for student

success in high school and the activities of everyday life. During the process of improving these

essential skills, students will study various literary genres, practice grammar, usage, and

mechanics, learn new vocabulary, and engage in writing workshop. Students are expected to

learn to view the English language as a tool for communication and reflection.

**\*Unit 1: Memoir**

*-Theme: Developing Self Awareness*- Throughout this unit students will produce the following end products:

\*Autobiography

\*Narrative poem based on personal experience

\*Personal letter about a significant experience from the summer

**\*Unit 2: Character Analysis**

*-Theme: Understanding People, Their motivations and Relations Through Literature*- Throughout this unit students will produce the following end products:

\*The View (talk show)

\*Character Analysis essay

\*Analyze the character in a poem

**\*Unit 3: Social Action**

*-Theme: Developing Social Awareness and Responsible Decision Making*- Throughout this unit students will produce the following end products:

\*PersuasiveEssay

\*Commercial

\*Debate

**\*Unit 4: Non fiction**

*-Theme: Discovering our World Through Non Fiction Texts*- Throughout this unit students will produce the following end products:

\*Non fiction piece based on non printed material

\*Multimedia presentation

\*Social Studies Essay

**\*Unit 5: Test Taking Strategies**

*-Theme: Genre Study*- Throughout this unit students will produce the following end products:

\*Short responses

\*essay writing

\*graphic organizers

**\*Unit 6: Fiction**

*-Theme: Understanding Fiction*- Throughout this unit students will produce the following end products:

\*Write a play for a fiction story

\*Historical fiction piece

\*Presentation of the play

**\*Unit 7: Independent Projects**

*-Theme: Reflecting on Our Learning*- Throughout this unit students will produce the following end products:

\*Portfolios

\*End of year reflection