

## Language Arts 7/8/9

### *The Goal of Language Arts*

- The aim of Junior High (ELA) is to allow each student to understand and appreciate language and to use it confidently and competently in a variety of situations for communication, personal satisfaction, and learning. Students will have many opportunities to learn and present their developing skills. They will work collaboratively and independently to achieve these goals. ELA 7/8/9 will include a wide range of oral, print, visual, and multimedia texts for students to study.

### *Course Objectives*

The objectives of this course are from the Alberta Learning English/Language Arts Program of Studies (available online by visiting [www.learning.gov.ab.ca](http://www.learning.gov.ab.ca)). The six strands, or methods of learning, in all English Language Arts classes are: reading, writing, listening, viewing, speaking, and representing. These methods will be used throughout the course in order for students to meet the following main objectives:

- Explore thoughts, ideas, feelings, and experiences
- Comprehend literature and other texts in oral, print, visual, and multimedia forms, and respond personally, critically, and creatively
- Manage ideas and information
- Create a variety of texts to enhance the clarity and artistry of communication
- Respect, support, and collaborate with others

Throughout the course, you will study many different texts in many different formats. These will include written texts (short stories, essays, poems etc), oral texts (speeches, storytelling etc.), visual texts (pictures, diagrams etc) and texts that combine different formats (videos, cartoons, drama etc.). You will also create texts in many different formats.

This year we will particularly emphasize analyzing visuals and developing more complex vocabularies. Activities to develop these skills will occur each week.

### *Resources Required*

Many different texts will be used in this course. They will be posted or accessed through Google Classroom.

### ***Home-study Requirements***

You will be required to complete unfinished work at home and will be given assignments to complete outside of school time. You should also have a consistent study schedule for reviewing materials covered in class.

Reading for pleasure will help you succeed in this course. Each student is encouraged to participate in independent reading of the texts they choose.

### **Course Expectations**

Every student has the responsibility to

- Be a regular attendee – the school attendance policy will apply.
- Be on time. Chronic lates will be dealt with according to school policy.
- Work to your potential.
- Respect the rights of others.
- Follow the school policies of academic honesty
- Complete all required assignments on time.
  - Make up the assignments when an excused absence occurs
  - Missed exams, essays or projects are subject to an NHI
- Participate in class discussions

### ***Assessment***

This is a split grade class so students will study common texts. A variety will be used from each grade level. Assignments will sometimes be adapted for each grade level to meet the required outcomes.

There is a final exam at the end of the course. Students in Language Arts 9 will write a Provincial Achievement Test (PAT) at the end of the course.

40% Text analysis assignments

40% Text creation assignments

10% Unit tests/quizzes

10% Final Exam (PAT for grade 9 students)

***Any questions or concerns please email the school at [spva@sturgeon.ab.ca](mailto:spva@sturgeon.ab.ca)***