

**Sanborn Regional School District**  
**Middle School Course Syllabus and Competencies**

Course Title: <i>Language Arts</i>		Grade: 8	
<b>Course Description:</b> Eighth grade Language Arts is a course designed to expose students to many different types of writing and literature. Students will learn to write interviews, essays on many topics, research papers, poetry & fiction. They will also be exposed to many different types of literature including Shakespeare, Medieval texts, as well as Mythology. Students will fine tune their writing skills with lessons in spelling, grammar and mechanics. Students will be encouraged to proofread their writing and take advantage of teacher/student writing conferences. Aside from writing there will be a great focus on understanding elements and themes of literature and how to apply it to the world around them.			
<b>Text/Major Resources:</b> <i>Prentice Hall Grammar Julius Caesar, Murder in Mesopotamia Canterbury Tales Evil Under the Sun Short Stories (Poe/Irving/Hawthorne), The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, A Christmas Carol</i>			
<b>Course Competencies Reading</b> 1. Read accurately and fluently 2. Summarize the key ideas/plot in a story with major events sequenced and analyzed to include their impact on the characters 3. Use information from text to answer questions, to state the main/central ideas or to provide supporting details 4. Participate in in-depth discussions about text, ideas and student writing by offering comments and supporting evidence		<b>Writing</b> 1. Write daily and across the curriculum 2. Practice the writing process of prewriting, writing, drafting, revising, editing and critiquing to produce final drafts of written products 3. Use varied sentence length and structure to enhance meaning 4. Identify the purpose and audience for their writing 5. State and maintain a focus/controlling idea on a topic	
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Grade English Essential Questions:</b> What are the tools needed to write effectively? What makes writing worth reading? What makes a book worth reading?			
<u>Instructional Practices</u> ✓ Writing Across the Curriculum/6+1 Writing Traits ✓ Differentiated Instruction/Independent Reading ✓ BIG 6 Research/ <b>Writing Process</b> /Essential Questions ✓ <b>Student/Teacher Conferences/Peer Critique</b>		<u>Assessment Strategies</u> ✓ Student Writing Portfolio ✓ NWEA, NECAP, Common assessments ✓ <b>Benchmark Essays</b> ✓ <b>Reading Responses</b>	
<b>Sanborn Regional Middle School Mission and Expectations</b> The faculty and staff of the Sanborn Regional Middle School have a commitment to recognize and nurture each student's abilities within the context of the educational setting. Through reflection, reinforcement and challenge we anchor within the student a sense of his/her ability, success, and dignity.  We believe this goal is best served when a holistic approach is used.			
<u>Students</u> Recognize student ability Nurture student ability Help students recognize their strengths and needs Help students recognize their success Help students behave with dignity	<u>Classroom Lessons and Activities</u> Ask students to reflect on their learning Create experiences that reinforce skills Offer opportunities for students to be challenged	<u>Classroom Climate</u> Create a safe classroom climate Develop clear and coherent expectations Provide a consistent system for expectations, behavior, and assessment	<u>Communications</u> Develop partnerships with community Develop partnerships with parents
GRADEQUICK: Parents and students may access grades and course information on EDLINE: <a href="https://www.edline.net/index.page">https://www.edline.net/index.page</a> All student grades are updated every two weeks.			