

**Center Joint Unified School District  
Middle School Course Outline  
English Language Arts**

**Course Title:** GATE English

**Grade Level:** 7

**Prerequisites:** Seventh Grade Standing, Identification as a GATE student

**Course Description:** The English course develops the reading, writing, listening and speaking skills of middle high school students. Reading lessons equip students with strategies to help them better understand not only stories, poetry, and essays, but also informational materials, such as newspapers, magazines, and textbooks. For writing, this course provides instruction in effective sentence and paragraph structures as well as in composing longer essays and research presentations. Students will be taught to use correct grammar and conventions for formal writing and speaking. Spelling and vocabulary units will focus on common bases, prefixes, and suffixes to enlarge the student's knowledge of the English language. In addition, there will be several opportunities for students to present and speak in front of the class to develop their public speaking skills. Students will be expected to listen and provide constructive feedback to presentations made by their peers.

**Instructional Materials**

Pearson *Literature*  
Pearson *Writing and Grammar*  
Pearson *Everyday Spelling*  
Supplemental Novels

**Units of Instruction**

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter**

(Literature) Unit 1: Fiction / Non-Fiction  
    Informational Text  
(Writing) Introduction to Jane Schaeffer Writing Program  
    Autobiographical Narrative  
    Summarizing  
    DWA (District Writing Assessment)  
    Root Based Spelling

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter**

(Literature) *The Ghost in the Tokaido Inn* by Hoobler (a mystery novel)  
    --an interdisciplinary lesson with the Japan Unit in GATE Social Studies  
    Informational Text from Unit 2: Short Story

(Writing) Response to Literature  
Japanese Culture Research (group project tied to GTI novel)  
Root Based Spelling  
(Listening and Speaking) Research Presentation using Power Point

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter**

(Literature) Unit 3 Nonfiction  
Informational Text  
*The Miracle Worker* by Gibson (play / video)

(Writing) Persuasive  
Timed Writing  
DWA  
Root Based Spelling

### **4<sup>th</sup> Quarter**

(Literature) Unit 4 Poetry  
*A Midsummer's Night Dream* by Shakespeare or *Treasure Island* by Stevenson  
--another interdisciplinary lesson connected to The Renaissance and Age of  
Exploration units in GATE Social Studies)

(Writing) Creative Writing  
Summary  
"Meet Mr. Shakespeare" Group Research

(Listening and Speaking) Research Presentation using Power Point  
Recitation of a Sonnet or Monologue

### **All Year**

Students will be required to read a minimum of 30 minutes a night and reach AR reading goals each quarter.

### **Instructional Strategies**

- Lecture/Note taking/Power Points
- Observation/Demonstration
- Written assignments
- Audio-visual aids
- Tests/quizzes
- Cooperative groups
- Group projects

### **Evaluation**

**Student progress will be evaluated by:**

Assessments = 50% of semester grade

Benchmarks = 10% of semester grade

Assignments = 30% of semester grade

Other(includes AR) = 10% of semester grade