

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

**Course Title:** English 8

**Grade Level:** 8

**Prerequisites:** Eighth Grade Standing

**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 and Non-Fiction

Informational Text (map & ferry schedule)

Introduction to Accelerated Reader program

**(writing)**

DWA – District Writing Assessment

descriptive essay

**(grammar)**

Nouns and Pronouns

**(spelling)**

Root-based spelling

**(Writing)** Introduction to Jane Schaeffer Writing Program  
Autobiographical Narrative  
Summarizing  
DWA (District Writing Assessment)  
Root Based Spelling

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

**(Literature)**

**Unit 2** – short stories

Informational Text (advertisements)

Optional Oral presentation (accelerated reader)

**(writing)**

Response to Literature

**(grammar)**

Verbs

**(spelling)**

Root-based spelling

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

**(literature)**

**Unit 3 & 4** – Types of Non-fiction & Poetry

Teacher-selected novel

Informational Text (public document/contract/application)

**(writing)**

DWA – District Writing Assessment

Expository essay

**(grammar)**

Adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions

**(spelling)**

Root-based spelling

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

**Unit 5** – Drama and/or Teacher-selected Novel

Informational Text (textbook article)

Optional Oral presentation (Accelerated Reader)

**(writing)**

Business letter

**(grammar)**

phrases & clauses

**(spelling)**

Root-based spelling

## All Year

Students will be required to read a minimum of 20 minutes a night and reach AR reading goals each quarter.

### **Instructional Strategies—May include some or all of the following:**

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

<b>Evaluation</b>	<b>Honors Evaluation</b>
<p><b>Student progress will be evaluated by:</b></p> <p>Assessments = 50% of semester grade</p> <p>Assignments = 40% of semester grade</p> <p>Other(includes AR) = 10% of semester grade</p>	<p>Assessments = 60% of semester grade</p> <p>Assignments = 30% of semester grade</p> <p>Other (includes AR) = 10% of grade</p>