



DHH Language Arts

2017-2018

Room A115

720-972-3209

Course Description: Language Arts will be paced to cover all of the District #12 standards derived from the Colorado Academic Standards. Instructions, materials, and assignments will be modified to meet students' needs. .

Standards:

- I. Oral Expression and Listening
- II. Reading for All Purposes
- III. Writing Composition
- IV. Research and Reasoning

Overview of Reading and Writing Workshop

The reading workshop is a component of a balanced literacy program that is comprised of a mini-lesson, student reading time, and a teaching share time. A balanced reading approach also includes writing workshop where students will emerge as writers using the same structure of a mini-lesson, student writing time, and a teaching share time. The reading and writing workshop is research based, district approved, and recommended.

Grading Policy

Westlake Middle School is a standards-based school. All assessments will be designed with the “end in mind,” which is to show students’ mastery of the standards of that content area. Students will be scored according to the scales below.

Assessments:

- 4 = Exceeds Standard
- 3 = Meets Standard
- 2 = Approaching Standard
- 1 = Below Standard

Our grading system in all Language Arts classes is a process that better supports student achievement based on standards. Formative assessments are used to assess student learning on a particular concept or skill and to evaluate the proficiency level at which the student is achieving that standard using an essential learning rubric. Assessments and grading standards are applied consistently to students of similar demonstrated ability. Assessments are based solely on demonstrated student progress and achievement of reasonable and clear standards. Students are encouraged to be engaged and motivated in the completion of their assignments. A score of 1-4 will be used to assess each standard and indicator.

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Scholarly Habits

Students are encouraged to be engaged and motivated in the completion of their assignments. In addition to scores for each GRC, the following scholarly habits may be reported. These are a set of guiding principles that support our learning and interactions with each other inside and outside of the school.

Scholarly Habit	Indicator
Respect	Scholars value their work, their interactions with others, and who they are as a person.
Preparation	Scholars are prepared and ready with all the necessary tools for learning.
Risk Taking	Scholars take intellectual risks and think outside the box.
Perseverance	Scholars don't give up. They keep going, even when the work is hard.
Excellence	Scholars take pride in their work and seek to achieve excellence.

Retake Policy

Whenever possible/practical, students should be given multiple opportunities to demonstrate their current level of understanding and mastery of standards. Multiple opportunities may mean the retaking of a summative assessment on which the student has not demonstrated proficiency. However, it may also mean that a particular concept can be reassessed later in the unit, as small formatives within the unit, or in another unit as part of a spiraling learning process without the actual retaking of an assessment.

Students are eligible for a retake on *most assessments, provided they meet the following:

1. The student participates in a form of relearning decided upon by the teacher. Additional learning may be required of the student, as well as additional instruction from the teacher.
2. The student has completed all required and associated formative course work.
3. The student has not demonstrated understanding at a proficient level (3 or higher).

***Students will not be allowed to “redo” or “retake” a summative assessment such as products, projects, extended writing assessment, etc., that have periodic formative checkpoints leading to the summative.**

Timeline for Retake:

Students must complete retakes no later than two weeks following the receipt of summative assessment results and/or within two weeks of unit completion.

Replacement of Score:

The score on a retake will **not** replace the original score; however, it will be used as another piece of data when analyzing the body of evidence before assigning an overall mark on the report card.

***This is a preliminary document that may be changed at any time due to students' needs and/or district requirements and expectations.

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