

# Seventh Grade Communication Arts

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Grade 7 Communication Arts helps develop students' critical language arts: writing, reading, listening, speaking, and research. Students will develop skills necessary to become lifelong learners as they see the whole picture - the connectedness of reading, writing, listening, and responding in language arts as well as the connectedness of all the disciplines.

## MAJOR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

### READING

#### **Goal 1: Develop and apply skills and strategies to the reading process**

##### **Objectives:**

*Fluency:* Read grade-level instructional text

- a) with fluency: accuracy and expression
- b) adjusting reading rate to difficulty and type of text

*Vocabulary:* Develop vocabulary through text, using

- a) roots and affixes
- b) context clues
- c) glossary, dictionary, thesaurus, and online resources

*Pre-Reading:* Apply pre-reading strategies to aid comprehension

- a) access prior knowledge
- b) preview
- c) predict with evidence
- d) set a purpose and rate for reading

*During Reading:* During reading, utilize strategies to

- a) determine meaning of unknown words
- b) self-monitor comprehension
- c) question to clarify
- d) infer
- e) visualize
- f) paraphrase
- g) summarize
- h) identify author's use of 6+1 Traits of Writing<sup>®</sup>: Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Conventions, and Presentation

*Post-Reading:* Apply post-reading skills to comprehend, interpret, analyze, and evaluate text

- a) identify and explain the relationship between the main idea and supporting details
- b) question to clarify
- c) draw conclusions
- d) summarize
- e) paraphrase
- f) evaluate author's use of 6+1 Traits of Writing<sup>®</sup>: Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Sentence Fluency, Conventions, and Presentation

*Making Connections:* Compare, contrast and analyze connections

- a) text-to-text (information and relationships in various fiction and non-fiction works)
- b) text-to-self (text ideas and own experiences)
- c) text-to-world (text ideas and the world by identifying how literature reflects a culture and historic time frame)

*Purpose for Reading:* Develop habits of reading

- a) by selecting appropriate level materials for independent reading
- b) through sustained independent reading

## **Goal 2: Develop and apply skills and strategies to comprehend, analyze and evaluate fiction, poetry and drama from a variety of cultures and times**

### **Objectives:**

*Text Features:* Use grade level text to

- a) interpret and analyze information in title
- b) recognize and interpret the text features of fiction, poetry and drama

*Literary Techniques:* Identify and explain literary techniques, in text emphasizing

- a) hyperbole
- b) imagery
- c) propaganda
- d) analyze literary techniques previously introduced

*Literary Elements:* Use details from text(s) to

- a) demonstrate comprehension skills previously introduced
- b) identify plot and sub-plot, mood, flashback, theme and types of conflict
- c) analyze cause and effect
- d) identify and explain point of view
- e) evaluate the problem-solving processes of characters
- f) evaluate the effectiveness of solutions

### **Goal 3: Develop and apply skills and strategies to comprehend, analyze and evaluate nonfiction (such as biographies, newspapers, technical manuals) from a variety of cultures and times**

#### **Objectives:**

*Text Features:* Explain and analyze text features to clarify meaning, emphasizing consumer texts

*Literary Techniques:* Identify and explain literary techniques and figurative language in nonfiction text, emphasizing

- a) hyperbole
- b) imagery
- c) propaganda
- d) sound devices previously introduced

*Text Structures:* Use details from informational text to

- a) summarize author's ideas
- b) make predictions
- c) make inferences
- d) evaluate the accuracy of the information
- e) analyze the text
- f) sequence events
- g) compare and contrast
- h) compare author's viewpoints
- i) identify and explain cause and effect
- j) identify problem-solving processes and explain the effectiveness of solutions
- k) analyze two or more texts

*Understanding Directions:* Read and follow multi-step directions to complete a complex task

## **WRITING**

### **Goal 1: Apply a writing process in composing text**

#### **Objectives:**

*Writing Process:* Follow a writing process to

- a) use appropriate prewriting strategies
- b) generate a draft using 6+1 traits
- c) reread, revise for audience and purpose, ideas and content, organization and sentence structure, and word choice (W2A, W2B, W2C, W2D)
- d) edit for conventions (W2E)
- e) share writing

## **Goal 2: Compose well-developed text**

### **Objectives:**

*Audience and Purpose:* Compose text

- a) showing awareness of audience
- b) choosing a form appropriate to topic and specific audience

*Ideas and Content:* Compose text with

- a) strong, controlling idea
- b) relevant, specific details

*Organization and Sentence Structure:* Compose text with

- a) an effective beginning, middle, and end
- b) a logical order
- c) appropriate paragraphing
- d) a variety of sentence structures, including complex sentences
- e) cohesive devices, especially transitions

*Word Choice:* Compose text using

- a) precise and vivid language
- b) writing techniques such as figurative language, sensory detail, and purposeful dialogue

*Conventions:* In written text

- a) capitalize within dialogue
- b) use commas and quotation marks in dialogue, and semi-colon in compound sentences
- c) use correct agreement of pronoun and antecedent, and consistent verb tense
- d) use standard spelling, classroom resources, including dictionary, to edit for correct spelling

## **Goal 3: Write effectively in various forms and types of writing**

### **Objectives:**

*Forms/Types/Modes of Writing:* Compose a variety of texts

- a) using narrative, descriptive, expository, and/or persuasive features
- b) including a summary
- c) responding to literature

## LISTENING AND SPEAKING

### **Goal 1: Develop and apply effective listening skills and strategies**

#### **Objectives:**

*Purpose for Listening:* Listen

- a) for enjoyment
- b) for information
- c) for directions
- d) critically to recognize and interpret propaganda techniques

*Listening Behavior:* Use active listening behaviors (e.g., ask questions of speaker and use appropriate body language and facial expressions to indicate agreement, disagreement, or confusion)

### **Goal 2: Develop and apply effective speaking skills and strategies for various audiences and purposes**

#### **Objectives:**

*Discussion and Presentation:* In discussions and presentations,

- a) designated time constraints
- b) media
- c) organized notes

*Giving Directions:* Give clear and concise multi-step oral directions to perform a complex task

## INFORMATION LITERACY

### **Goal 1: Develop and apply effective research process skills to gather, analyze, and evaluate information**

#### **Objectives:**

*Research Plan:* Develop an appropriate research plan, with assistance, to guide investigation and research of focus questions

*Acquire Information:* Locate and use multiple sources to

- a) acquire relevant information
- b) evaluate reliability of information
- c) fulfill research plan

*Record Information:* Record relevant information using a variety of note-taking and organizational strategies

*Sources Consulted:* Document research sources using a given citation format

**Goal 2: Develop and apply effective skills and strategies to analyze and evaluate oral and visual media**

**Objective:**

*Media Messages:* Identify and explain media techniques used to convey messages in various media (e.g., videos, pictures, web-sites, artwork, plays, and/or news programs)

*Technology:* Use technology sources and devices to facilitate learning