
ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS COURSE DESCRIPTION
CAPE GIRARDEAU PUBLIC SCHOOLS
KINDERGARTEN THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE

English Language Arts instruction in grades kindergarten through eighth grade provides a solid literacy foundation that scaffolds from grade to grade. College and career readiness standards anchor specific standards for reading literature, reading informational text, writing, speaking and listening, and language strands. In addition, reading foundational skills are emphasized in kindergarten through fifth grade.

The delivery of instruction provides a balance of opportunities for whole group instruction with on-grade level material and small group instruction based on ability level. Tier 3 intervention is also provided for students identified that need individual assistance. Teachers utilize mini-lessons to model skills and concepts followed by students engaging in guided and independent practice. Teachers facilitate cooperative learning activities to enhance student engagement. In addition, a variety of depth of knowledge levels is reached during instruction and assessment.

The goal of reading instruction is to provide students with a balance of literature and informational texts with increasing text complexity. Students are taught comprehension strategies to achieve close reading by reading widely and deeply. Further emphasis is placed on using evidence from the text to prove answers to posed questions. Comparing texts to other texts and multimedia sources is studied as well.

Instruction in the steps of the writing process begins in kindergarten and expands through eighth grade. Writing narratives and writing to explain/inform continue to be important; however, a greater emphasis is now being placed on writing to make an argument and research writing at all grades. In addition, using evidence from sources to inform and make an argument is stressed.

Language instruction emphasizes essential rules of standard written and spoken English. A balance of vocabulary is studied including basic words, high frequency words, and content words. Adequate word work and spelling occurs in kindergarten through sixth grade. The importance of content literacy is addressed in other disciplines such as science, social studies, and practical and fine arts.

The scope of instruction that occurs in kindergarten through eighth grade results in students having the knowledge and skills necessary to be college and career ready. As students enter ninth grade, a variety of English Language Arts courses are offered so students may follow their college and/or career path.

