

The following learning targets represent the major concepts studied and assessed in each of these Courses

ELA Reading

Ongoing (year-long) Learning Targets:

- Explain what a text says “on the surface” and make less obvious inferences by reading between the lines and citing text evidence as support.
- Analyze development of the theme or central idea in a text and provide an objective summary of the piece.
- Explain how the text elements (literary or informational) interact throughout a text.
- Interpret words and phrases in a text, and explain how specific word choices shape the meaning or tone of the text.
- Analyze how the individual parts of the text work together to make an understandable and meaningful piece.
- Identify the point of view and/or author’s purpose in a text and explain how that shapes the tone of the text.
- Compare/Contrast similar topics/content in different formats such as novels, poems, news stories, essays, video, podcasts, etc.
- Evaluate the specific claims in a text, whether or not those claims are valid, and whether or not the author provided enough evidence to support the claims.
- Analyze more than one text with a similar theme or topic in order to build knowledge.

ELA Writing

Ongoing (year-long) Learning Targets:

- Write a lead/introduction that draws the reader into the piece and is appropriate to text type.
- Use transitions to connect parts of story/text and to make it easier for the reader to follow.
- Compose an ending/conclusion that makes the text a cohesive whole and provides closure for the reader.
- Organize the text so it is easy to follow and fits the purpose of the piece of writing.
- Elaborate using techniques appropriate to the type of writing (ie., facts, examples, anecdotes, etc) If outside sources are used they should be reliable and cited.
- Use writing techniques appropriate to the task (ie., dialogue, figurative language, etc.)
- Use word choice/vocabulary and tone appropriate to the purpose and type of writing task.
- Spell words correctly.
- Use accurate punctuation.
- Use correct sentence structure that is appropriate to the writing task.

Note: In 8th Grade, students will concentrate on a different type of writing in each unit:

1. Narrative
2. Argumentative
3. Informative
4. Multi-Genre (a combination of the other 3 types)