

# **Middle School English Department Philosophy**

The curriculum of the Middle School English department is high school preparatory in nature and follows a carefully planned sequence of courses from the 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grades. We seek to provide an environment that invites and encourages students to enjoy reading and writing, while instilling critical thinking and analytical skills.

The teacher acts as an instructor and guide in the learning process, leading students to provide challenges and enable them to grow into confident, creative, and effective readers and writers. We recognize that students in any classroom will learn at a variety of levels. Accordingly, we tailor our teaching to the individual student as far as is practically possible.

We believe that effective expression cannot take place without a clear understanding of the principles of grammar, usage, and mechanics. Students are further taught these elements in the context of many written forms and styles. We believe that process is as important as product, and that students should recognize that the learning process never ends.

## **Goal:**

The goal of the English Department is to help the student reach his or her potential in several areas of communication, demonstrating a high proficiency of reading, writing, and thinking skills. The following are the specific objectives to meet this goal:

## **Objectives:**

- **To understand the nature of and function of the English language through a study of vocabulary, grammar and syntax.**
- **To develop a capacity to communicate ideas fluidly and logically, in both oral and written composition.**
- **To learn a variety of strategies as they plan, draft, edit and revise their writing.**
- **To grow as readers and writers through keeping journals and writing reflective essays.**
- **To increase reading level and vocabulary skills.**
- **Locating, organizing, and interpreting written information for a variety of purposes.**
- **To apply critical reading skills in the interpretation of literature and drama.**

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## **Objectives, continued:**

- To develop facility in the use of library and technology resources, and citation methodology.
- To acquire effective speech habits, and strong interpersonal verbal skills.
- To provide a modified instruction for non-native speakers of English.
- To create imaginative poetry and prose.

## **Course offerings:**

**Language Arts 6**

**Language Arts 7**

**Language Arts 8**

## **Strengths of the Program:**

- ESOL Instructor works closely with other Language Arts classes.
- Small class size allows greater attention to individual students.
- The Program enjoys strong cooperative support from the Media Center.
- Technology is integrated in instruction.

## **Recommendations to improve the program:**

- Consider increasing the available collection of VHS and DVD materials to better support curricula.
- Consider linking classroom computers to Student Wireless network for in-class research projects.