

**WEST JEFFERSON HILLS SCHOOL DISTRICT
CURRICULUM STRANDS – LANGUAGE ARTS
GRADE 12**

I. Learn to Read Independently

- A. Before reading locate and select various resources for a specific purpose.
- B. Analyze and synthesize correlation of the text and graphic features of informational materials analyzing author’s choices.
- C. During reading apply acquired knowledge and strategies to understand the meaning of new words. Use these words to communicate effectively.
- D. Utilize effective comprehension strategies to extract essential ideas from text.
- E. Utilize the acquired reading vocabulary by determining the meaning of and use accurately, new words encountered in reading materials. Use a reference when appropriate.
- F. Understand the meaning of and apply key vocabulary.
- G. Understand and apply knowledge gained from text.
 - Support assertions about texts.
 - Compare and contrast texts.
 - Make extensions to related ideas, topics or information.
 - Assess the validity of documents.
 - Evaluate the author’s strategies.
 - Critique public documents.
- H. Read fluently with a high level of comprehension.
 - Read aloud with accuracy.
 - Self-correct mistakes.
 - Use appropriate reading techniques (e.g., rhythm, flow, meter, and pronunciation).
 - Read a variety of genres and text.
 - Demonstrate comprehension (Standard 1.1.12G)(Recommend 25 books/year).

II. Reading Critically in All Content Areas

- A. Read and understand informational texts and documents.
 - Differentiate fact from opinion.

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- Distinguish between essential and nonessential information.
- Make decisions and draw conclusions using established criteria.
- Evaluate the text organization and content.

B. Use, understand, and evaluate a variety of media.

- Evaluate and select appropriate electronic media.
- Critique the techniques of electronic media.
- Use media to demonstrate understanding.

C. Produce accurate work in at least one literary genre that follows the conventions of the genre.

III. Reading, Analyzing and Interpreting Literature

- A. Read and understand works of literature.
- B. Evaluate author's use of literary elements.
- C. Evaluate the effectiveness of authors' use of literary devices (e.g., sound techniques, figurative language, literary structures).
- D. Critique various types of poetry.
- E. Evaluate the components of drama.
- F. Read and respond to literary works.

IV. Types of Writing

A. Write short stories, poems, and plays that consciously include:

- Varying organizational methods and characteristics.
- Relevant illustrations.
- Dialogue.
- Literary conflict.
- Varying literary characteristics.
- Literary elements.
- Literary devices.
- Detailed descriptions.

B. Write complex informational pieces using:

- A well-developed topic.
- Precise language and specific detail.
- Cause a defect.

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- Various models of development (e.g., definition, analogy).
- Relevant graphics.
- Primary and secondary sources.

C. Write persuasive pieces that:

- Develop a clearly stated position/opinion.
- Include pertinent documented evidence.
- Develop reader interest.
- Address reader arguments and concerns.
- Select the method of development to best advance the argument or position to the audience.

D. Maintain a written record (i.e., portfolio) organized by theme or topic that includes.

- Activities.
- Coursework.
- Honors.
- Interests.

E. Write a personal resume.

V. Quality of Writing

A. Write with a sharp, distinct focus.

- Identify topic, task, and audience.
- Maintain a single point of view.

B. Write using well-developed and appropriate content.

- Gather, verify, and synthesize information.
- Utilize the most effective format for purpose and audience.
- Write fully developed paragraphs specific to the topic and relevant to the focus.

C. Write with effective and logical organization that supports unity and clarity.

D. Write with effective style.

E. Revise writing to improve:

- Style.
- Word choice.
- Sentence variety.
- Paragraph development.
- Clarity of meaning.
- Organization.

F. Edit writing using:

- Correct spelling.
- Appropriate mechanics and punctuation.
- Proper syntax.

VI. Speaking and Listening

A. Listen to others.

- Ask clarifying questions.
- Evaluate the relevancy of information, ideas and opinions.
- Take notes.

B. Listen to selections of literature (fiction or nonfiction).

- Relate to previous knowledge.
- Make predictions.
- Summarize and reflect on content.
- Identify and define new words and concepts.
- Analyze and synthesize the selections relating them to other selections heard or read.

C. Speak using skills appropriate to formal speech situations.

- Adjust presentation according to audience and purpose.
- Use effective verbal communication skills to create the desired impression or effect on the audience.
- Adjust stress, volume, and inflection to provide emphasis to ideas or to influence the audience.

D. Contribute to discussions.

- Ask relevant clarifying questions.
- Enhance the discussion by introducing and responding with relevant, facilitating information, ideas and opinions.
- Listen to and acknowledge the contributions of others.
- Facilitate equitable participation by the total group.
- Paraphrase and summarize as needed.

E. Participate in discussions and presentations.

- Initiate conversation.
- Present oral readings for a specific purpose.
- Conduct interviews.
- Participate effectively in formal interview situations.
- Engage in informal debate on a particular topic.
- Critically evaluate group discussion.

F. Use media for learning purposes.

- Use various forms of media to obtain information for a particular intent.
- Validate the impact of media on public opinion.
- Utilize a variety of media to design and develop effective presentations for a specific purpose.

VII. Characteristics and Functions of the English Language

- A. Analyze the influence of historical events on the English language.
- B. Evaluate language variations and their effect on societal groups.
- C. Demonstrate an understanding of the role and influence of the English language within and across countries.

VIII. Research

- A. Select, refine, and narrow a topic for research.
- B. Locate information using appropriate sources and strategies.
 - Use a variety of reliable primary and secondary resources to research a topic.
 - Evaluate the importance and quality of the sources.

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- Select sources appropriate to the breadth and depth of the research (e.g., dictionaries, thesauruses, other reference materials, observations, and computer media).
 - Use table of contents, indices, key words, cross references, and appendices.
 - Use traditional and electronic search tools.
- C. Organize, summarize, and present the main ideas from the research.
- Take notes relevant to the research topic.
 - Develop a thesis statement based on the research.
 - Anticipate readers' problems or misunderstandings.
 - Give precise, formal credit for others' ideas, images or information using a standard method of documentation.