

LANGUAGE ARTS GOAL STATEMENT

GRADES 6, 7, & 8

The Pleasant Hills Middle School Language Arts and Reading Departments strive to stress a love for reading and writing the English Language. We'd like to instill respect for standard conventions and mechanics in that language, and encourage our students to continue as life-long English language learners who will take risks with the language as they are striving for excellent written and verbal communication. We believe our students will:

- Read and write critically in all content areas.
- Read a wide range of print and non-print texts to gain an understanding of themselves, different historical periods, and different cultures of the world.
- Gain an appreciation for numerous literary elements and a wide variety of writing styles.
- Apply their knowledge of standard American English structure, language conventions (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, etc.) and figures of speech to speaking and writing.
- Apply phonetic, morphemic, and contextual clues to unfamiliar words.
- Demonstrate written proficiency in the various writing modes on a wide range of topics and for a variety of purposes and audiences.
- Strive to spell words correctly, capitalize properly, punctuate correctly, and observe basic grammatical rules according to standard American English conventions and in all of their formal writing assignments.
- Research, refine and correctly cite source information to formulate a written piece.
- Utilize technology proficiency to integrate all components of the reading and writing process.
- Read, analyze, and interpret all types of literature.
- Strive to be critical and analytical viewers as well as producers of media.
- Gain an appreciation for various literary writers – past and present.
- Recognize and appreciate various literature genres.
- Apply reading strategies to all types of reading material to aid in comprehension.
- Become lifelong independent readers and writers.
- Engage in collaborative literacy activities.