

## **Eighth Grade**

**During the Eighth Grade year, your student will encounter the following skills during Language Arts instruction as identified from the PA Common Core:**

### **Foundational Skills:**

- Continue to gain a working knowledge of concepts of print, alphabetic principles, and other basic conventions.

### **Reading Informational Text:**

- Read, understand, and respond to informational text – with emphasis on comprehension, making connections among ideas and between texts with focus on textual evidence.
- Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text.
- Cite textual evidence that supports an analysis of the text explicitly as well as inferentially.
- Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events.
- Determine an author’s point of view or purpose and analyze how the author acknowledges and responds to conflicting evidence or
- Analyze the structure of the text to develop and refine a concept.
- Analyze the influence of the words and phrases in a text including figurative and connotative, and technical meanings.
- Evaluate authors’ arguments, reasoning, and specific claims.
- Analyze two or more texts that provide conflicting information on the same topic and identify where the texts disagree on matters of
- Acquire and accurately use appropriate general academic and content specific vocabulary.
- Determine the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases.
- Read and comprehend literary non-fiction and informational text .

### **Reading Literature:**

- Read and respond to works of literature - with emphasis on comprehension, making connections among ideas and between texts with focus on textual evidence.
- Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text.
- Analyze how dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.
- Analyze how differences in the points of view of the characters and the audience or reader create effects.
- Compare and contrast the structure of two or more texts and analyze how the structure of each text contributes to its meaning and style.
- Analyze the influence of the words and phrases in a text including figurative and connotative meanings and how they shape meaning and tone.
- Analyze the extent to which a filmed or live production of a story or drama reflects the original text.
- Analyze how a modern work of fiction draws on themes, patterns of events, or character types from traditional works.
- Determine the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases.
- Read and comprehend literary fiction independently and proficiently.

**Writing:**

- Write for different purposes and audiences clearly and to convey a well-defined perspective and appropriate content.
- Identify and introduce the topic clearly, including a preview of what is to follow.
- Develop a topic with relevant, well-chosen facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
- Organize ideas, concepts, and information into broader categories.
- Write with stylistic aspects of composition, (i.e., precise language and domain-specific vocabulary), to inform about or explain the topic.
- Demonstrate appropriate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and spelling.
- Introduce and state an opinion on a topic.
- Distinguish claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims and support claim with logical reasoning and relevant evidence.
- Write with stylistic aspects of composition.
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events.
- Engage the reader by establishing a context and point of view and
- Use narrative techniques, (i.e., dialogue, description, reflection, and pacing), to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
- Organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
- Participate in individual or shared research and writing projects using technology to interact and publish.
- Use the Writing Process to strengthen written works.
- Gather and ethically use relevant information from multiple print and digital sources.
- Write routinely over extended time frames.

**Speaking and Listening:**

- Present appropriately in formal speaking situations, listen critically, and respond intelligently as individuals or in group discussions.
- Engage effectively in collaborative discussions.
- Delineate a speaker's argument.
- Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats.
- Present claims and findings.
- Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks.
- Include multimedia components and visual displays in presentations.
- Analyze the purpose of information presented in diverse media formats.
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard spoken English.