 **Course Descriptor**

**English Language Arts**

**Grade 8**

**September 2015**

**Curriculum Overview**

The grade eight English Language Arts curriculum focuses on the experience, study, and appreciation of language, literature, media, and communication. Students are provided diverse opportunities in relevant contexts using six language processes (speaking and listening, reading and viewing, and writing and representing). These processes are taught using an integrated approach that considers individual students’ prior experiences with language as well as their individual learning needs.

**Learning Resources**

Students will have access to the following resources:

* *Nelson Literacy 8* student textbook (hardcover)
* *Nelson Literacy 8 Homegrown* student textbook (softcover)
* *Nelson Literacy 8* student access code (to access the Nelson Literacy 8 digital platform)
* Classroom set of dictionaries and thesauri
* A variety of novels for independent study, in-depth (class) study, and read aloud study

Students should have the following materials to help with their daily organization:

* Notebook
* Loose leaf
* Duo tang folder with loose leaf (for journal writing)
* Pencils and pens
* Eraser
* Ruler
* Colouring pencils
* **Students are required to bring to class daily their binder/notebook, journal, and textbook(s).**
* **We recommend students with smartphones use the free Merriam-Webster Dictionary app.**

**Assessment:**

**Language Arts Outcome Strand Total Value**

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| --- | --- |
| **Writing and Representing Outcomes**   * Process writing (3 pieces) * Journal writing (minimum 10) * Other writing and representing | **30%**   * 15% * 5% * 10% |
| **Speaking and Listening Outcomes**   * Speech presentation * Other presentations * Listening evaluations (2 – 1st and 3rd terms) | **15%**   * 5% * 4% * 6% |
| **Reading and Viewing Outcomes**   * Independent novel study (book talk) * Class novel study * Unit tests (3 – one per term) * Demand writing (2 – 1st and 3rd terms) | **35%**   * 5% * 10% * 15% * 5% |
| **Final Examination**   * The examination format will be determined by the Newfoundland and Labrador English School District. We will communicate details upon their receipt. | **20%** |

**Expectations for Students:**

* ALL work shall be attempted (except for modified programming) and legible for examination by teachers.
* Plagiarism is unacceptable and it will carry consequences aligned with the District’s evaluation policy.
* Slang and inappropriate language will not be accepted in student work.

**English Language Arts Webpage:**

Students and their families are encouraged to visit our webpage (accessible via the school’s website <http://www.spjh.k12.nf.ca/>). Our webpage is intended to support children and their families from home. Families are encouraged to contact their child’s English Language Arts teacher for further inquiries.