

Course Description: In each step of the Language! Curriculum, the students will be learning English Language Arts (ELA) concepts that align to the PA Common Core Standards (CCS). The students will complete activities within each of the following steps.

1. **In Step 1**, students recognize that words are composed of phonemes or sounds, and syllables.
2. **In Step 2**, students use the sound-to-letter correspondences, syllables and word parts like suffixes to read and spell fluently.
3. **In Step 3**, students develop strategies to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words, including the use of morphology.
4. **In Step 4**, students learn that word function and arrangement in a sentence create meaning, contributing to comprehension and clear written communication.
5. **In Step 5**, students read multiple text selections from different genres to develop fluency, build background, learn vocabulary, and increase comprehension.
6. **In Step 6**, students use ideas, content, and text structure from the text selections for writing.

The above steps within the Language! Curriculum coincides with the ELA CCS areas.

1. **Foundational skills** – Students gain working knowledge of concepts of print, alphabetic principle, and other conventions. Reading fluency and comprehension skills will be progress monitored. The students will collect and show individual data which will be shared with the parents each quarter.
2. **Informational Text** – The students read, understand, and respond to informational text, with emphasis on comprehension, making connections among ideas and between texts with focus on textual evidence. Students will read various non-fiction passages.
3. **Literature** – Students read and respond to works of literature, with emphasis on comprehension, making connections among ideas and between texts with focus on textual evidence. The students will read literature from the Language! Curriculum, but mostly from novels like The River, Fever 1793, and The Outsiders.
4. **Writing** – The students write for different purposes and audiences. The students write clear and focused text to convey a well-defined perspective and appropriate content.
5. **Speaking & Listening** – The students present appropriately in formal speaking situations, listen critically, and respond intelligently in group discussions.

Instructional Materials:

- Language! Book A Textbook
- Language! Book A Interactive Text
- Skill Lessons
- Interactive Worksheets
- Oral and Written Instruction
- Novels and selected reading passages
- ELA Binder
- PA Common Core themed reading passages, writing prompts, and bellringer questions
- Prentice Hall Literature: Timeless Voices, Timeless Themes (Bronze Level)

Assessments:

- Language! A: Assessment: Content Mastery and Summative Assessments
- Fluency and comprehension progress monitoring assessments
- Literary device concept worksheets
- Character and story map
- Novel comprehension questions, vocabulary, quizzes, and tests
- Argumentative, Narrative, and Informative Essays; summative assessments
- Text-Dependent Analysis
- Inferencing from short stories and poetry; formative assessments
- Parts of speech; formative assessments (formal & informal)
- Punctuation; formative assessments (formal & informal)
- Daily Oral Language (DOL); weekly quizzes

Classroom Expectations: The classroom expectations are simple. The student must bring a pencil to class. The student must be prepared for class by arriving on time, bringing required materials, etc. However, most materials will remain in the classroom such as the binder and interactive text. The student will take novels, question packets, and worksheets from the room to complete homework. Finally, the student must have a positive attitude towards himself/herself, peers, and teachers.

The 3 Ps

1. Pencil
2. Prepared
3. Positive

Academic Integrity

"Students caught cheating, plagiarizing, copying homework and/or test, quizzes, and using a paper from the Internet will be given a "0" (zero) on that assignment. In addition, their name will be reported to the office and filed in the event of future violations. Repeated violation could result in removal from class and a non-passing grade."

Grading Scale:

96.5 A+	86.5 B+	76.5 C+	66.5 D+
92.5 A	82.5 B	72.5 C	62.5 D
89.5 A-	79.5 B-	69.5 C-	59.5 D-

Homework:

Home work will typically be assigned once or twice a week. Homework assignments will be practice PSSA reading passages or writing prompts, reading assigned pages from novel, answering comprehension questions, and completing various projects/assignments that coincide with reading selections. Any student that is absent has the responsibility of asking for assignments upon return, and he/she will be expected to complete the assignment in the same time frame.

Homework Philosophy

"The application of homework within almost every learning activity is a valuable means of reinforcement and evaluation. It is the teacher's role to define such assignments and the responsibility of the students to complete them on time. Parents must also assume their responsibility in regard to student homework; therefore, proper communication between the home and the school are vital in establishing assignments, which can significantly contribute to the overall educational process."