

K-12 English Language Arts Program



Philosophy

The Cypress-Fairbanks Language Arts student-centered program is dedicated to stimulating student interest and developing student competence in the interrelated communication areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

We believe our students are best served when their varied learning styles and intelligences are addressed with instruction that is motivational, multi-sensory, integrated, systematic, process- and product-oriented, and directed toward self-reliance. Our differentiated approach is designed to provide success and challenge for all students in their use of language.

Goals

- 1) All students will develop affectively as well as cognitively in their use of language.
- 2) All students will successfully engage in the constructive process of making language meaningful.
- 3) All students will become increasingly more aware and more effective in their use of language concepts and skills.
- 4) All students will integrate critical and creative thinking with listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- 5) All students will become independent and creative users in the four aspects of language.

Major Outcomes for Language Arts Instruction

The major outcomes for language arts instruction are constant across all grade levels. The differences at successive grade levels are:

- the complexity of material that students are asked to read and listen to for meaning and
- the sophistication and degree of polish that students achieve in their writing and speaking.

Reading: Major Outcomes

- 1) Students will learn how to use a variety of pre-reading activities in order to:
 - define a purpose for reading,
 - determine reading rate and strategies,
 - activate prior knowledge, and
 - make predictions about text structure and content.
- 2) Students will learn how to read actively, interacting with different forms of literature in a variety of contexts to construct meaning.
- 3) Students will learn how to use a variety of post-reading activities in order to:
 - assess achievement of the reading purpose,
 - summarize information learned, and
 - analyze, synthesize, and evaluate the information acquired.
- 4) Students will learn to use a variety of skills, strategies, and techniques in order to:
 - read with fluency and understanding,
 - read strategically, using both cognitive and metacognitive skills to construct meaning from the text, and
 - assimilate new information from reading.
- 5) Students will learn to use a variety of study skills in order to apply their reading strategies in a variety of practical situations.
- 6) Students will learn how to select and respond to all genres of literature by a wide variety of authors.

Writing: Major Outcomes

- 1) Students will learn to employ a variety of pre-writing activities to:
 - select topics,
 - generate information, and
 - organize information and material for writing.
- 2) Students will learn to write (draft) effectively, using the combinations of purposes and modes of writing appropriate for their respective grade levels for a variety of audiences.
- 3) Students will share their writing with others in order to:
 - learn how to seek response,
 - learn how to utilize response, and
 - learn the value of response as part of the writing process.
- 4) Students will learn how to revise and rewrite their composition in order to “make it say more effectively what they want it to say.”
- 5) Students will learn the conventions of writing appropriate for their age (grammar usage, punctuation, capitalization, handwriting, and spelling) and how to apply these conventions in the editing stage of the writing process.
- 6) Students will learn ways to share their final products in the publishing stage of the writing process.

Speaking/Listening: Major Outcomes

- 1) Students will learn to listen with discrimination, comprehension, and appreciation.
- 2) Students will be able to interact with others based upon input gained through listening.
- 3) Students will critically evaluate the messages they receive through listening.
- 4) Students will be able to speak with a rate, pitch, expression, and degree of clarity that invites others to listen.
- 5) Students will be able to incorporate the conventions of language into their speech.
- 6) Students will be able to effectively speak in conversations, discussions, reports, and entertainment situations.



Portrait

of a Cypress-Fairbanks I.S.D.

Graduate

Cypress-Fairbanks I.S.D. is committed to providing the environment and learning opportunities for all students so that, as graduates, they will possess the characteristics which will enable them to live meaningfully and successfully in society and in the workplace.



Effective Communicator

who successfully uses the levels of communication skills demanded by the complex and ever-changing world—skills in listening, speaking, writing, reading, mathematics, and technological presentations.



Competent Problem-Solver

who can identify problems and the information needed to organize, analyze, interpret, evaluate, predict, and make appropriate decisions to resolve or to avoid the problems that so frequently accompany a rapidly-changing world.



Self-Directed Learner

who continually seeks knowledge, creates options for learning that lead toward enhanced productivity, takes responsibility for setting appropriate priorities and achievable goals, and monitors and evaluates own progress in goal attainment.



Responsible Citizen

who is honest, self-disciplined, respectful of others, and not only accepts, understands, and deals with diversity, but also is appreciative of differences; and, in a cooperative manner, contributes to the community's welfare and participates in the political process.



Quality Producer

who is resourceful and creative, has high expectations for own work as an individual or as part of a team, can lead others when called upon, takes pride in own work, and is able to monitor and correct own performance.