Welcome to Language Arts 9
Semesters 1 & 2

This course is meticulously designed to align with state standards and targeted learning objectives, ensuring comprehensive coverage of essential knowledge and skills required for student success.

Course Description:
Language Arts 9 meets the Language Arts requirement for 9th grade and is designed to help students build strong reading, writing, and communication skills through a structured exploration of literature and non-fiction. This course covers four key areas of the Common Core State Standards: (1) Reading Literature, (2) Reading Non-fiction, (3) Writing, and (4) Speaking and Listening. Students will develop critical thinking skills through the analysis of texts, learning to cite evidence, identify themes, and analyze characters. Writing instruction will focus on three main genres—argumentative, informative/explanatory, and narrative—while students will also practice speaking and presenting their ideas using digital media and in-class discussions.

Semester 1
Unit 1: Introduction to Literary Analysis
- Understanding literary elements such as theme, plot, and character development
- Analyzing short stories and poems, identifying key details and textual evidence
- Writing a literary analysis essay on a short story or poem

Unit 2: Character and Theme in Fiction
- Reading and analyzing novels or novels excerpts (e.g., *Of Mice and Men*, *The Outsiders*)
- Exploring how characters evolve and how themes develop across the text
- Writing a character analysis essay with textual evidence

Unit 3: Exploring Non-fiction
- Reading and analyzing non-fiction texts, such as essays, speeches, and articles
- Focusing on how authors use evidence, reasoning, and rhetoric to support their arguments
- Writing an informative/explanatory essay based on a non-fiction reading

Unit 4: Grammar, Vocabulary, and Sentence Structure
- Review of grammar skills, including sentence structure and punctuation
- Expanding vocabulary through reading and exercises
- Writing clear and effective sentences to improve writing style and fluency

Semester 2
Unit 5: Analyzing Point of View and Structure
- Analyzing how the author's point of view and narrative structure affect the meaning of a text
- Reading excerpts from different genres (novels, short stories, plays) and analyzing the perspective of the narrator
- Writing an analysis of how point of view shapes a story or event

Unit 6: Argumentative Writing
- Developing skills in argumentative writing by constructing persuasive essays
- Analyzing and using evidence to support claims in written arguments
- Writing a persuasive essay on a current issue, incorporating both research and personal viewpoints

Unit 7: Narrative Writing
- Writing original narratives such as short stories or personal essays
- Focusing on elements like setting, character, conflict, and resolution
- Peer reviewing and revising narrative drafts to improve structure and creativity

Unit 8: Speaking, Listening, and Digital Media
- Participating in structured class discussions and group projects
- Preparing and delivering presentations using digital media tools to convey analysis or creative ideas
- Reflecting on speaking and listening skills through self-assessment and feedback from peers

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of Semester 1, students will be able to:
- Analyze and interpret key elements in literature, including theme, character, and plot.
- Support their analysis with textual evidence in essays and discussions.
- Write clear and coherent literary analysis and informative essays.
- Demonstrate mastery of grammar, sentence structure, and vocabulary in writing.

By the end of Semester 2, students will be able to:
- Analyze point of view and narrative structure in literature.
- Write persuasive argumentative essays supported by evidence.
- Create and refine original narrative writing that demonstrates creativity and structure.
- Effectively present ideas and analysis through digital media and engage in thoughtful class discussions.