

MEDFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT

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GRADE 8
ESSENTIAL LEARNINGS

This guide provides an overview of what an **eighth grade** student should know and be able to do in English/Language Arts by the completion of the school year.

The Medford Public Schools is committed to providing all students with the academic and problem-solving skills essential for personal development, responsible citizenship and life-long learning. The districtwide curriculum goals for all grades preK-12 are as follows:

- To develop high standards and expectations for all students
- To incorporate a balanced core of critical, essential learning that reflects national standards and the state curriculum frameworks for each discipline
- To develop competency in communication, thinking, problem solving research and other critical skills
- To connect learning to relevant situations and experiences outside the school setting
- To measure student learning through multiple types of assessments including the MCAS
- To integrate the curriculum, wherever possible, across subjects and grade levels
- To effectively integrate technology into the curriculum
- To recognize and respect the different needs, interests and talents of all students

In addition to reading and writing daily, students will be able to...

- Understand conventions within language study: research, oral delivery, reference tools, parts of speech
- Demonstrate sentence combining skills in writing
- Demonstrate in their writing – style, complexity, organization, transitions
- Apply consistently appropriate grammar/usage
- Apply knowledge of parts of speech in writing
- Apply knowledge of correct subject/verb agreement
- Apply knowledge of capitalization and punctuation in writing
- Edit writing for punctuation
- Demonstrate consistent conventional spelling strategies
- Apply new vocabulary
- Read to extend understanding through synonyms, antonyms, homonyms, simile, metaphor, idiom, analogy
- Demonstrate knowledge of structural analysis: root words, affixes, and derivatives
- Write in a variety of genre: analogy, extended definition, cause-effect
- Write to respond to literature
- Demonstrate an understanding of author's craft (e.g. irony, foreshadowing, flashback, point of view, etc.)
- Construct meaning by developing different kinds of writing: narration, persuasion, description, poetry, etc.
- Extend understanding through symbolism, simile, metaphor, idiom
- Interpret theme, mood, tone, and point of view in reading and writing
- Discover knowledge through critical reading
- Revise writing to ensure clarity and thus communication
- Demonstrate oral language by presenting information effectively
- Identify persuasive techniques: glittering generalities

- Demonstrate technology skills: research, communication