



Welcome to 8th grade English: Explorations



UNITS OF STUDY

Unit	Title	Description	End of Unit Assessment*
		G/T and on-level classes explore similar themed units using a variety of text selections to provide an appropriate level of rigor and challenge for all students. Grammar, usage, and vocabulary study are drawn from the texts read and writing needs each quarter.	
1	Journeys	Students will read write and think about ways people grow through the goals they set and the difficulties they encounter. Students will create portfolios to track their progress as readers, writers, and critical thinkers. A variety of writing assignments lead to an essay examining how a character gains newfound self –awareness. Students will practice annotating text, analyzing text for plot structure and character development.	Week of October 26 th
2	Community	Students will examine various communities, including their own as they consider the characteristics of communities, the individuals on communities, and the challenges of belonging to a community. Students will focus on paragraph development and engage in peer editing. The focus on argument in this unit encourages students to recognize and analyze use of persuasion and apply these techniques to their own writing. A research project on a community issue and an essay round out the quarter. Students will move to the lab for practice in research and use of presentation technology.	Week of January 18 th
3	Responsibility	Students focus on the theme of responsibility in text and in real life. They will investigate the historical period of a text. Respond to literary and visual art as they continue to develop and refine their writing and discussion skills. In addition to writing paragraphs and essays, students will continue their study of grammar, usage, and vocabulary in context to the text and the writing skills needed to respond to it.	Week of March 22 nd
4	Discoveries	Students focus on the concept of discovery in a variety of ways. They read and perform selected scenes from As You Like It. Preparation for performance involves close study of character and careful attention to the text. Students examine how Shakespeare uses character, language, and plot to develop humor. A variety of writing assignments, paragraph, essay and poetry are provided to continue growth as writers. Portfolios provide reflection for self –discovery.	Week of June 7 th

*Students and parents will receive more information regarding the end of unit assessments and projects in a timely manner before the scheduled assessment.