SWALLOW SCHOOL DISTRICT CURRICULUM GUIDE	
Curriculum Area: Communications	**Course Length:** One Year
Grade: 8	**Date Last Approved:** June 2023

Stage 1: Desired Results

Course Description and Purpose:
The Literature and Communications program for grade 8 is balanced and comprehensive. The language arts processes of reading, writing, listening, and speaking are taught in an integrated and interrelated manner. Course components include the study of rich and varied literature; writing in the genres of comparison of various media, persuasive, expository, and response to literature. Direct instruction within this course includes language arts skills and strategies, including close reading, analysis, vocabulary development, and grammar; and a balance of oral and written and language activities. Students will be given the opportunity to practice the following communications strategies: Outlining, multimedia presentation, on-demand responses (both oral and written), applying advanced grammar to their own writing, debate and the synthesis of several sources in proving a well-defined claim. They will also continue to refine their ability to communicate effectively through writing, reading, speaking, and listening.

Enduring Understanding(s):
1. Reading expands understanding of the world, people and oneself.
2. Effective readers use strategies to construct and extend meaning.

3. Various types of texts and media are used to communicate ideas.

4. Knowledge and ideas are developed by evaluating multiple sources of text to gain information and create perspectives.

5. Effective written communication relies on choosing the proper form of writing to clearly communicate ideas.

6. Control of mechanics and proper grammar promote effective spoken and written communication.

7. Listening and speaking skills are critical for learning and communicating.

Essential Question(s):

1. How do reading strategies impact a reader's comprehension and analysis of text?
2. How does reading a wide variety of texts expand one's knowledge of the world?
3. How do text features, structures, word-choice and characteristics influence understanding of a variety of genres?
4. How does what is written impact or influence readers?
5. How do rules of language affect communication?
6. How does a writer choose a particular form of writing?
7. What ways can a writer's message be impacted by punctuation and grammatical correctness or incorrectness?
8. How does understanding the audience influence the way a message is communicated orally?

Learning Targets:

3. Students can create written work for a variety of tasks, purposes, and audiences

4. Produce language that demonstrates knowledge of conventions, grammar

5. Organize and communicate ideas to others

Stage 2: Learning Plan	

I. Setting Up the RLA Workshop
 	
A. Proper email format and tone
 	
B. Essay format review
 	
C. Academic integrity
 	
D. Grammar
 	
E. Greek and Latin roots
 	
F. Monthly essays
	Standards Referenced: College and Career Readiness Anchor Standards for writing, listening/speaking, and language
	
	Learning Targets Addressed:
	   3. Students can create written work for a variety of tasks, purposes, and audiences
	
	   4. Produce language that demonstrates knowledge of conventions, grammar
	
	   5. Organize and communicate ideas to others
	
	College and Career Readiness Standards:
	
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.1
	
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.2
	
	Production and Distribution of Writing:
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.3
	
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.4
	
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.5
	
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.6
	
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.9
	
	Comprehension and Collaboration:
	   CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.1
	
	   CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.2
	
	Conventions of Standard English:
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.1
	
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.2
	
	Knowledge of Language:
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.3
	
	Vocabulary Acquisition and Use:
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.4
	
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.5
	
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.6
	
	Key Unit Resources
	
	   ● Articles on proper email usage
	   ● IXL

● Prestwick House/MyPerspectives Greek and Latin roots

Assessment Map:

Type	Level	Assessment Detail
Practice	Knowledge	● Grammar practice (IXL) ● Vocabulary practice and study (Greek and Latin Roots) ● Class discussions ● Vocabulary work
Formative	Skills/ Reasoning	● Email to teacher ● Monthly essays ● Greek and Latin Roots ● IXLs
Summative	Product	● IXL quizzes

II. Speeches	**College and Career Readiness Standards:**
A. Understand the format of an informative speech	**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.1**
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.2
B. Employ elements of good public speaking practices/techniques	Production and Distribution of Writing: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.3**
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.4
C. Conduct effective research to support a claim	**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.5**
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.6
D. Organize a speech for best listener experience	**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.8**
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.9
E. Grammar	Comprehension and Collaboration: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.1**
F. Greek and Latin roots	**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.3**
G. Monthly essays	Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.4**
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.5
	Conventions of Standard English: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.1**
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.2
	Knowledge of Language: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.3**
	Vocabulary Acquisition and Use: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.4**
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.5
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.6
	Learning Targets Addressed: 3. Students can create written work for a variety of tasks, purposes, and audiences
	4. Produce language that demonstrates knowledge of conventions, grammar
	5. Organize and communicate ideas to others
	Key Unit Resources
	● IXL

- Turnitin.com
- Informative speech example videos
- Prestwick House/MyPerspectives Greek and Latin roots

Assessment Map:

Type	Level	Assessment Detail
Practice	Knowledge	• Grammar practice (IXL) • Vocabulary practice and study (Greek and Latin Roots) • Class discussions • Vocabulary work • Speech examples
Formative	Skills/ Reasoning	• Speech graphic organizer • Speech writing check-ins • Speech slides check-in • Greek and Latin Roots • IXLs • Speech peer feedback
Summative	Product	• IXL quizzes • Monthly essays • Informative Speech

III. Formal Writing

A. Match an essay with MLA formatting

B. Employ proper essay format to provide a clear and organized piece of writing

C. Respond to literature in a timed format

D. Revise and edit alone and with peers to enhance writing

E. Grammar

F. Greek and Latin roots

G. Monthly essays

College and Career Readiness Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.1

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.2

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.3

Production and Distribution of Writing:
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.4

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.5

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.6

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.7

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.8

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.9

Comprehension and Collaboration:
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.1

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.2

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.3

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas:
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.4

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.5

Conventions of Standard English:
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.1

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.2

Knowledge of Language:
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.3

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use:
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.4

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.5

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.6

Learning Targets Addressed:
3. Students can create written work for a variety of tasks, purposes, and audiences

4. Produce language that demonstrates knowledge of conventions, grammar

5. Organize and communicate ideas to others

Key Unit Resources
- IXL   - Purdue Owl MLA formatting guide   - Turnitin.com   - Prestwick House/MyPerspectives Greek and Latin roots

Assessment Map:

Type	Level	Assessment Detail
Practice	Knowledge	- Grammar practice (IXL) - Vocabulary practice and study (Greek and Latin Roots) - Class discussions - Vocabulary work - Essay format review - MLA format review - Thesis review
Formative	Skills/ Reasoning	- Greek and Latin Roots - IXLs - Essay format practice paragraph - Essay format essay outline - Thesis practice - Monthly essays
Summative	Product	- IXL quizzes - Formal essay

IV. The Outsiders	College and Career Readiness Standards:
A. Read and analyze how authors express point of view in nonfiction narrative **B. Analyze a classic novel with focus on indirect characterization and motivations** **C. Analyze how setting is reflected in character motivations and actions** **D. Grammar** **E. Greek and Latin roots** **F. Monthly essays**	**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.1** **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.2** **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.3** Production and Distribution of Writing: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.4** **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.5** **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.6** **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.9** Comprehension and Collaboration: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.1** **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.2** Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.4** Conventions of Standard English: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.1** **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.2** Knowledge of Language: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.3** Vocabulary Acquisition and Use: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.4** **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.5** **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.6** **Learning Targets Addressed:** 3. Students can create written work for a variety of tasks, purposes, and audiences 4. Produce language that demonstrates knowledge of conventions, grammar 5. Organize and communicate ideas to others <table><tr><td>Key Unit Resources</td></tr><tr><td>● *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton ● IXL ● Turnitin.com ● Prestwick House/MyPerspectives Greek and Latin roots</td></tr></table>

Assessment Map

Type	Level	Assessment Detail
Practice	Knowledge	• Notes/close read annotations • Comprehension checks • Summary of texts • Class discussions • Grammar practice (IXL) • Vocabulary practice and study (Greek and Latin Roots)
Formative	Skills/ Reasoning	• Class discussions • Graphic organizers • Monthly essays • Greek and Latin Roots • IXLs
Summative	Product	• IXL quizzes • Socratic seminar discussion • Character analysis project

V. Children's Literature

A. Identify a perspective other than my own to inform my writing style and tone

B. Create a piece of creative fiction that focuses on a lesson/theme

C. Write a creative story to the comprehension level of an intended audience

D. Use images to enhance my own writing

E. Share my writing with my intended audience

F. Grammar

G. Greek and Latin roots

H. Monthly essays

College and Career Readiness Standards:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.1

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.2

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.3

Production and Distribution of Writing:
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.4

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.5

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.6

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.9

Comprehension and Collaboration:
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.1

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.2

Conventions of Standard English:
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.1

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.2

Knowledge of Language:
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.3

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use:
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.4

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.5

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.6

Learning Targets Addressed:
3. Students can create written work for a variety of tasks, purposes, and audiences

4. Produce language that demonstrates knowledge of conventions, grammar

5. Organize and communicate ideas to others

Key Unit Resources

- Various children's books
- IXL
- Turnitin.com
- Prestwick House/MyPerspectives Greek and Latin roots

Assessment Map

Type	Level	Assessment Detail
Practice	Knowledge	- Children's books examples - Children's books close reading/evaluation - Class discussions - Grammar practice (IXL) - Vocabulary practice and study (Greek and Latin Roots)
Formative	Skills/ Reasoning	- Children's books brainstorming - Children's books page check-ins - Graphic organizers - Monthly essays - Greek and Latin Roots - IXLs
Summative	Product	- IXL quizzes - Children's book - Children's book presentation

VI. Argumentation	**College and Career Readiness Standards:**
A. Learn and identify logical fallacies within argument	**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.1**
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.2
B. Conduct research on the side of an argument assigned	**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.3**
	Production and Distribution of Writing: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.4**
C. Find sources that are reputable to support claims	**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.5**
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.6
D. Engage in a respectful, productive debate	**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.7**
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.8
E. Grammar	**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.9**
	Comprehension and Collaboration:
F. Greek and Latin roots	**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.1**
G. Monthly essays	**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.2**
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.3
	Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.4**
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.5
	Conventions of Standard English: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.1**
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.2
	Knowledge of Language: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.3**
	Vocabulary Acquisition and Use: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.4**
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.5
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.6
	Learning Targets Addressed: 3. Students can create written work for a variety of tasks, purposes, and audiences 4. Produce language that demonstrates knowledge of conventions, grammar 5. Organize and communicate ideas to others

	Key Unit Resources
	● IXL ● Debate example videos ● Various videos on logical fallacies ● Prestwick House/MyPerspectives Greek and Latin roots

Assessment Map

Type	Level	Assessment Detail
Practice	Knowledge	● Grammar practice (IXL) ● Vocabulary practice and study (Greek and Latin Roots) ● Class discussions ● Vocabulary work ● Debate example ● Logical fallacies slides
Formative	Skills/ Reasoning	● Greek and Latin Roots ● IXLs ● Debate graphic organizer ● Debate check-ins ● Logical fallacy skit ● Logical fallacy IXL
Summative	Product	● IXL quizzes ● Monthly essays ● In-Class Debate

VII. Poetry **A. Identify and use rhetorical devices in writing** **B. Write poetry in a variety of formats** **C. Engage in spoken word poetry to enhance the impact of messages within writing** **D. Engage in a respectful, productive debate** **E. Grammar** **F. Greek and Latin roots** **G. Monthly essays**	**College and Career Readiness Standards:** **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.1** **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.2** **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.3** Production and Distribution of Writing: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.4** **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.5** **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.6** Comprehension and Collaboration: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.1** **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.2** Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.5** Conventions of Standard English: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.1**

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.2

Knowledge of Language:
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.3

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use:
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.4

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.5

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.6

Learning Targets Addressed:
3. Students can create written work for a variety of tasks, purposes, and audiences

4. Produce language that demonstrates knowledge of conventions, grammar

5. Organize and communicate ideas to others

Key Unit Resources
● IXL ● "Sonnet 18" by William Shakespeare ● Video on sonnet structure ● Various slam poem videos ● Prestwick House/MyPerspectives Greek and Latin roots

Assessment Map

Type	Level	Assessment Detail
Practice	Knowledge	● Grammar practice (IXL) ● Vocabulary practice and study (Greek and Latin Roots) ● Class discussions ● Vocabulary work ● Slides on rhetorical devices ● Slides on sonnets ● Video on sonnets ● Slam poem example videos
Formative	Skills/ Reasoning	● Greek and Latin Roots ● IXLs ● Poetry worksheets ● Written poems
Summative	Product	● IXL quizzes ● Monthly essays ● Written poems ● Slam poem

VIII. Generations Research Project	College and Career Readiness Standards:
A. Synthesize information from multiple sources to fully understand self-selected topic	**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.1**
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.2
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.3
B. Write an oral argument in which all elements of an argument are effectively incorporated	Production and Distribution of Writing: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.4**
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.5
C. Present an effective oral argument in debate or presentation format	**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.6**
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.7
D. Evaluate the effectiveness of an argument/presentation	**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.8**
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.8.9
E. Grammar	Comprehension and Collaboration:
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.1
F. Greek and Latin roots	**CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.2**
G. Monthly essays	Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.4**
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.8.5
	Conventions of Standard English: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.1**
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.2
	Knowledge of Language: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.3**
	Vocabulary Acquisition and Use: **CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.4**
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.5
	CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.L.8.6
	Learning Targets Addressed: 3. Students can create written work for a variety of tasks, purposes, and audiences
	4. Produce language that demonstrates knowledge of conventions, grammar
	5. Organize and communicate ideas to others

Key Unit Resources
● IXL

- Prestwick House/MyPerspectives Greek and Latin roots
- Various research internet tools
- Turnitin.com

Assessment Map

Type	Level	Assessment Detail
Practice	Knowledge	- Grammar practice (IXL) - Vocabulary practice and study (Greek and Latin Roots) - Class discussions - Vocabulary work - Comprehension checks
Formative	Skills/ Reasoning	- Greek and Latin Roots - IXLs - class discussions - graphic organizers - Research check-ins - Slide check-ins - Notecard check-ins - Outline
Summative	Product	- Research kick-off - Research notecards - Research paper/presentation - IXL quizzes - Monthly essays