

Welcome to Grade 8 English Language Arts



How do we communicate?

Welcome to [Grade 8 English Language Arts](#) (804, 805). Whether it comes as a novel, poem, poster project, podcast, formal essay, or theatre review, there's something in this curriculum to grab everyone, as we work our way to becoming better readers, writers, analysts, audience members, and conversationalists.

SCHEDULE: French Immersion students have ELA five times within a two-week cycle.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW:

Inquiry-based learning is an approach that promotes inquiry, the creation of ideas, and observation. Through these inquiries, students will meet the following six outcomes:

- Learners will **reflect** on how the cultures of communities, inclusive of the Mi'kmaq, Acadians, African Nova Scotians, and the Gaels are expressed through a range of communication forms.
- Learners will **plan** oral, written, and visual personal and critical responses, in relation to audience and purpose
- Learners will **create** oral, written, and visual communication forms for a range of audiences and purposes
- Learners will **implement** speaking and writing strategies for effective communication in relation to audience and purpose
- Learners will **comprehend** a range of communication forms using listening strategies, reading strategies, and viewing strategies
- Learners will **analyse** the accuracy, reliability, validity and bias in a range of written, audio, visual, and digital communication forms

INDEPENDENT READING AND NOVEL STUDY: Most days, students will spend the first 15 minutes of class reading independently. We have a diverse range of fiction and non-fiction books, graphic novels, and periodicals in our classroom library, but students are welcome to bring in their own reading material. Later in the year, we will be embarking a novel studies either as a class, independently, or in small groups (literature circles/book clubs). Rather than prescribe a reading list, I like to get to know the students before deciding on the shape of this unit, and the book/s that we study.

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STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION: Students will be assessed in various ways, including written assignments, creative projects, classroom presentations, small and whole-group conversations, and student-teacher conferences. You can check your child's real-time attendance, marks, and assessment schedule using the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#). Additionally, if you are ever curious, please ask to come in and see your students ELA portfolio ("journal") which is kept in the classroom.

GOOGLE CLASSROOM: Google classroom may be used during the year, but it will not represent all the course materials and lessons. If students have missed time, they should contact me personally to catch up.

METHODS OF COMMUNICATION: I hope to see you at Curriculum Night. Otherwise, do not hesitate to contact me by email (earleyh@hrce.ca) or phone (902 421-6758, extension 545 1215). If you have a concern, please reach out sooner rather than later, following the [parent concern process](#).

PROVINCIAL SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT: Students must follow the [Nova Scotia School Code of Conduct](#).

CELL PHONE POLICY: Phones must be in the student's locker, or the "cell phone hotel." Exception: translation, and diabetes management.

DONATIONS OF BOOKS OR GAMES: I welcome donations of books, graphic novels and board games (including chess) for our classroom library.

INVITATION TO VOLUNTEER AS A GUEST SPEAKER: Do you have a connection to our English Language Arts curriculum? If you would like to share your experiences with our class, teach a new skill, or offer a new perspective, please contact me. Guests will be required to produce an enhanced/vulnerable sector police check.

I look forward to teaching your student ELA 8 this year!

Ms. Helen Earley