

Language Arts

The purpose of Language Arts is to instill in children a love of reading and writing and to empower them as communicators. From Pre K to Grade 8, children are surrounded by literature. We read to children and they read by themselves or with buddies, every day. They discuss, analyze, perform, debate, and respond to great literature, poetry, plays, newspapers, articles, and non-fiction. They study authors and genres. They write in journals; write fiction, poetry, plays, and reports; write scientific observations and analysis; write letters; and write about math. They brainstorm, revise drafts, collaborate, and publish. From the earliest ages they see themselves as readers and authors. They develop a life-long passion for exploration and communication through the written and spoken word.

Literature and research are tied to classroom themes and questions. Children also read and respond to books of their choosing with the help of teachers. All students are expected to read every day outside of school with parents or independently for 20 – 30 minutes.

The Language Arts experience culminates in eighth grade with a thesis project. With the help and guidance of the language arts and social studies teachers and the librarian, students choose a topic to research. They formulate a thesis and go through a rigorous process that results in a 15 – 25 page paper that is presented on Project Night.

Sample thesis topics:

The Media's Effects on Adolescents

Loop Quantum Gravity and String Theory: Scientific Theories of Creation

Pagodas, Tatamis, Teahouses, and Ponds

The Curse of the Bambino: Reality or Perception

“I'm So Pretty” – The Influence of Muhammad Ali

Incarceration in the United States