



# Southern Lehigh School District

Middle School Syllabus

## Language Arts 137 2012-2013

### Course Description:

Students who opt for taking this Honors Language Arts course should enjoy writing and possess the ability to complete independent assignments. This class moves at a rigorous, fast pace. The course reaches beyond basic skills and focuses on higher level tasks in writing, grammar, vocabulary, and oral communication.

The primary goal of the class is to develop the student's ability to clearly and effectively express themselves in various forms of written and oral communication. Study is centered on developing the student's writing skills through continual writing activities in a writer's workshop setting. Using the Write Traits as their guide, students will learn to express themselves in various modes of writing, such as: informative, persuasive, creative and expository. Writing topics will vary throughout the year, and students will often have the opportunity to explore topics of their interest and choosing. Oral presentation skills are developed through regular classroom presentations and discussions, as well as through in-class projects.

Students are graded on achievement, but are given ample opportunity to revise their work. Writing assignments are graded using a rubric. Effort, class participation, and homework and project completion are key to academic success in this class.

### Course Content:

Major units of study include:

Autobiography Unit  
Journalism Unit  
Grammar Study  
Vocabulary Study  
PSSA/Writing Prompt Preparation  
Tall Tale Unit  
Descriptive Writing (Life Moments) Unit  
Poetry Unit

### Required Textbooks and/or Other Reading/Research Materials

Writing and Grammar: Communication in Action, Prentice Hall, 2004

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to come to class prepared with all necessary materials and complete all assignments on time. Students are also expected to participate in class discussions and small group activities.

Grade Components/Assessments:

Grades will be based on homework assignment, quizzes, tests, essays, projects, and in-class activities.

Each marking period is worth 20% of a student's overall grade. The midterm and final exam are each worth 10% of a student's overall average:

Quarter 1	20%
Quarter 2	20%
<b>Midterm</b>	<b>10%</b>
Quarter 3	20%
Quarter 4	20%
<b>Final</b>	<b>10%</b>

Required Summer Reading/Assignments:

There is no required summer reading for this course.