



PISD ELAR DEPARTMENT

Guiding Principles

LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT MISSION

The mission of the Pasadena ISD Language Arts department is to graduate proficient readers and writers who are reflective and self-directed, can interact successfully with various audiences, texts, and digital media, and are prepared to participate fully as engaged citizens in a global society.

LITERACY

Literacy is fundamental for learning in school and affects every aspect of school curricula. Literacy is crucial to the success of individuals in their career aspirations and their quality of life in general. Literacy goes beyond basic reading ability; it is an indication of how one constructs and extends meaning from life experiences, language, print, and non-print materials.

LITERACY

Literacy in today's world must include proficiency in information and communication technologies.

Integrating these technologies into the curriculum is necessary to provide a school experience that prepares students for success in both college and career.

TEKS-BASED CURRICULUM FOR ALL

Consistent framework with common components across all grade levels

Rigorous learning experiences and instructional supports to ensure equal access for all students

RESEARCH-BASED LITERACY INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

Gradual release of responsibility from teacher to student

Modeling of reading, writing, and thinking

Explicit, systematic instruction with scaffolding

Flexible, small group instruction

Supported independent reading and writing

SUFFICIENT, PROTECTED TIME SPENT READING, WRITING, AND TALKING ABOUT TEXT

Building habits of literacy

Balance of literary and informational text and digital media

Time spent in independent, instructional, and increasingly complex texts

Emphasis on textual evidence and writing from sources

ONGOING PROGRESS MONITORING WITH SPECIFIC AND TIMELY FEEDBACK

Variety of assessments including authentic reading and writing tasks

Time committed to conferring for formative feedback

Differentiation through a multi-tiered model of intervention and enrichment informed by data

COLLABORATION WITH COLLEAGUES IN PROFESSIONAL LEARNING COMMUNITIES

Use of backward design in collaborative planning

Development of campus-based common assessments

Analysis of student performance, using both formative and summative data

Review of student work samples to calibrate expectations for learning and to inform instructional decision

Engagement in ongoing professional development based on identified student needs

A large, powerful blue wave is cresting, filling most of the frame. The water is a deep, vibrant blue, and the sky above is a lighter, clear blue. The wave's surface is textured with small ripples and white foam at the top. The overall mood is serene yet powerful.

WE BELIEVE...

A RISING TIDE

LIFTS ALL BOATS