

The Classical Academy of Naples

Literature and Language Arts

Exposure to great novels, stories, plays and poetry are significant to a child's intellectual development, the academic schedule includes a daily class devoted entirely to the study of literature. Students will read several stories and a minimum of eight to ten novels and plays every school year.

The literature selected for reading is chosen with definite criteria in mind. First, they are stories that capture the imagination. They contain age-appropriate plots and contain vivid details. Second, they are well-written stories, offering students examples of English used at its finest. Third, some will be chosen because they integrate with periods in history that the students are studying, thereby integrating discipline and bringing to life different human experiences.

Students at The Classical Academy will study poetry. They will read, discuss, and memorize poems of all kinds: narrative, humorous, or descriptive. Students will recite poems before a student audience. We value poetry as part of our literature program because of the pure enjoyment it offers, because it introduces a unique form of expression to our students, and because of its evocative use of language.

Lower School Language Arts Objectives

Reading Comprehension

Reading Process

- Use prereading strategies
- Read with fluency
- Ask questions to set purpose for reading
- Make notes while reading
- Make generalizations and draw conclusions
- Answer questions about a story's meaning

- Retell or paraphrase parts of a story
- Summarize passages

Word Analysis and Vocabulary Development

- Support learning of basic elements of phonetic analysis to decode words
- Develop vocabulary through exposure to familiar and challenging texts
- Use context clues to figure out word meaning
- Use reference materials for unknown words

Comprehension Strategies

- Reread a story
- Ask questions when curious or confused
- Make personal connections to a story
- Explain how illustrations contribute to understanding a story
- Identify words and phrases important to a story's meaning
- Make inferences and predictions based on a story
- Determine the important ideas in a story
- Synthesize textual information

Literary Response and Analysis

- Read stories from a variety of cultures
- Connect story ideas to the real world
- Compare and contrast stories
- Understand the sequence of story events
- Identify character motivation
- Understand figurative language
- Identify a story's setting
- Identify a story's theme

Critical Thinking

- Ask questions
- Generate ideas with a clear focus in response to questions
- Support ideas with relevant evidence
- Modify interpretation to incorporate new ideas and evidence
- Present ideas logically and persuasively

Writing

Process

- Write for various audiences and purposes
- Maintain a consistent focus
- Use graphic organizers to plan writing
- Organize writing in a logical sequence
- Use descriptive words and details

Applications

- Personal responses to reading
- Descriptive paragraph
- Story
- Expository text
- Letter
- List
- Persuasive piece
- Poem or song

Listening and Speaking

Listening

- Listen to and comprehend stories read aloud
- Set a purpose for listening (e.g., answer a question, consider new arguments)
- Listen actively (e.g., sustain eye contact, listen without interruption)
- Ask a speaker questions for clarification
- Respond to other students' questions
- Listen for different ideas
- Follow multistep oral directions

Speaking

- Speak clearly
- Participate in discussion
- Retell or paraphrase what others have said
- Maintain a clear focus
- Respond to other students
- Rephrase or explain to help listeners understand
- Speak directly to individuals within a group

- Agree and disagree constructively
- Identify ways to improve group participation

Research

Process

- Gather information from experiences, texts, and other sources to answer a question

Middle School Language Arts Objectives

Reading Comprehension

- Use prereading strategies
- Generate questions about the story
- Make generalizations and draw conclusions
- Answer questions about the story's meaning
- Summarize stories and passages
- Discuss interpretations of the story
- Cite passages to support questions and ideas
- Read with fluency
- Gain exposure to a wide range of words
- Use context to figure out word meaning
- Read with a purpose and take notes to monitor comprehension
- Practice using a variety of reading strategies

Critical Thinking

- Ask interpretive questions
- Generate ideas with a clear focus in response to questions
- Support ideas with relevant evidence
- Respond to other students' ideas, questions, and arguments
- Revise ideas and evidence based on **Shared Inquiry**[™] discussion
- Modify an argument to incorporate other students' ideas
- Question other students' perspectives
- Compare and weigh evidence
- Evaluate ideas for sense and evidence
- Present ideas logically and persuasively

Listening and Speaking

- Comprehend as stories are read aloud
- Listen actively and carefully to others; listen for differing ideas
- Ask for clarification
- Respond to other students' questions
- Participate in discussion
- State ideas clearly
- Agree and disagree constructively
- Explain and defend arguments

Writing

- Take notes about a story
- Record personal responses before and after discussion
- Use discussion to generate and develop ideas
- Use graphic organizers to plan writing
- Write a first draft
- Write descriptions, narratives, expository essays, and persuasive essays
- Practice creative writing
- Revise writing in response to feedback