

**Brandywine Heights Area School District**  
**200 West Weis Street, Tipton, PA**

**Course Syllabus for 8th Grade English**

**Course Overview:**

Strong emphasis is placed on the continued development of writing skills as students explore narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive writing. The study of grammar will be taught as both an ongoing unit and in the context of becoming an integral part of the writing process. Writing and grammar skills will be practiced through regular language usage throughout the year. Students will explore various types of literature and literary elements in order to identify various themes and cultural viewpoints. Listening and oral communication skills will be addressed and practiced throughout the year.

**Textbook(s) other resources used:**

*Language Network*. Evanston, Illinois: McDougal Littell, Inc., 2004.  
Probst, Robert E. et al. *Elements of Literature*, Second Course. New York: Holt, Rinehart, and Winston, 2003.

**Outline of Course Content:**

**First Quarter:**

- Coherently link paragraphs to create focused and organized pieces of writing.
- Review standard English punctuation and parts of speech, and demonstrate basic understanding of phrases and clauses.
- Analyze and interpret standard literary elements of the short story.
- Use verbal and nonverbal communication to speak, listen, and interact appropriately for varied purposes.

**Second Quarter:**

- Use the writing process with increasing sophistication to plan, draft, revise, edit, and present finished work in different types of texts.
- Build upon prior knowledge of standard punctuation, parts of speech, and sentence structure to write with greater clarity and focus.
- Continue to examine and interpret various types of literature in order to identify universal themes and cultural viewpoints..
- Use verbal and nonverbal communication to speak, listen, and interact appropriately for varied purposes.

**Third Quarter:**

- Develop grade-appropriate compositions utilizing various writing modes with emphasis on more effective writing and revising..
- Use and identify grammatical concepts in various modes of expression.
- Explore and analyze various literary genres.
- Use verbal and nonverbal communication to speak, listen, and interact appropriately for varied purposes.

**Fourth Quarter:**

- Continue development of grade-appropriate compositions utilizing various writing modes with increased focus on growth of the writer..
- Continue integration of grammar and mechanics to demonstrate sophisticated levels of understanding.
- Analyze various types of literature in order to identify the use of figurative language.
- Use verbal and nonverbal communication to speak, listen, and interact appropriately for varied purposes.