

1. Integrated Language Arts

The Integrated Language Arts Program encompasses the development of communication skills: reading, writing, speaking, and listening experiences. Language is viewed as a tool with which the child can describe, explain, explore, understand, and interact in his/her environment.

The development of these skills includes the following components:

- A) Reading/literature/drama/poetry
- B) Writing/speaking/listening
- C) Grammar/usage/mechanics/
- D) Spelling/vocabulary
- E) Handwriting

- A. Reading is taught within the context of the Integrated Language Arts Program. It includes an instructional process designed to develop strategic, independent, lifetime readers. This can be achieved through the use of specific programs, but should include children's literature, poetry and drama. A variety of teaching modes is employed to facilitate student mastery. Flexible grouping is used in a manner that raises expectations for students and gives attention to individual differences.

Phonics is incorporated in reading instruction within the integrated language arts program.

Sustained silent reading may be included in the reading class. We encourage teachers to read selected stories to the class.

- B. Writing should be viewed and taught as a process and should be extended across the curriculum. The focus is on content, structure, and correct application of basic skills. To foster and maintain writing skills taught in the language curriculum, content area teachers consistently reinforce them in their subjects.

Students are taught to write effectively for a variety of purposes and audiences as demonstrated through stories, essays, letters, research papers, poems, journals, etc. This will enable them to understand the importance of writing in their academic, vocational, social, and personal lives.

Students are engaged in speaking activities and presentations to develop public verbal fluency and listening skills.