

Good Shepherd Catholic School
2008-2009 Eighth Grade
Language Arts

Teacher: Cathie Gabrio

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Description: The course will focus on writing strategies and applications in written and oral presentations. . It will be consistent with the K-12 Language Arts Guidelines of the Diocese on Monterey and the State of California's Content Standards and Instructional Practices for Language Arts.

Objective: Your favorite 8th Grade child will demonstrate the ability to:

- Effectively organize his/her writing , providing balance and using transition to unify ideas can support statements and claims with anecdotes, descriptions, facts and statistics and specific examples; use prewriting strategies to create structure in drafts; identify topics, ask and evaluate questions and lead to inquiry, investigation and research; revise his/her writing to improve organization, word choice, logic of ideas and vocabulary
- Write biographies, autobiographies, narratives, research reports, persuasive compositions, responses to literature and summaries of what s/he has read
- Use a variety of sentence types and openings to develop a personal style
- Use correct punctuation, capitalization and spelling and edit for correct grammar
- Compare and contrast features of consumer documents; find similarities and differences between texts in the treatment, scope or organization of ideas; determine the accuracy of a summary by comparing it to the original text
- Create compositions that establish an impression, contain a coherent thesis and end with a clear and well supported conclusion; has coherence in his/her writing through use of transitions, parallel structures, and similar writing techniques
- Support theses and conclusions with analogies, paraphrases, quotations and opinions from authorities
- Write career development documents: business letters and job applications
- Prepare an organized speech outline and can deliver narrative presentations, oral responses to literature, research presentations and persuasive presentations

Materials:

Joyce Carroll, Edward Wilson and Gary Ferlini. *Writing and Grammar Communication in Action*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, Inc. 2001.

Various essays and articles

Requirements and assignments

Assignments will include, but not be limited to:

- Expository, Persuasive, Response to Literature, Autobiographical, and Narrative Compositions
- Journal Writing
- Participation in small group work and class discussions
- Various assignments, quizzes and tests