

2009 Language Arts Back to School Curriculum Update
Viewing Notes

Language Arts Curriculum

Amy Hardee, Senior Curriculum Coordinator of Language Arts, grades 6-12

Please refer to PowerPoint, "Overview of Author's Backpack Writing Portfolios"

Approved Instructional Reading List

Diane Conley, Chairman of the Approved Instructional Reading Committee, Academic Intervention Facilitator at Fort Meade Middle Senior High School, diane.conley@polk-fl.net

- Purpose: The purpose of the "Approved Instructional Reading List" is solely to assist teachers in selecting reading materials that can be used in their classrooms for the purpose of INSTRUCTION.
 - Books included on this list provide teachers with a variety of CHOICES of classroom reading material which can be matched, most importantly, to their students' levels of content and maturity, and secondarily, to the lexile range of the written text. No teacher should select books for instruction without considering student diversity.
 - It is requested that teachers honor the designated levels (middle, 9-12 and AP) to avoid repetition of instruction. However, if your students inform you that they have already read this selection, please view it as an opportunity for a reread without having to emphasize elements of plot.
- ✓ Make suggestions, using the request to add form on LA Website, under Curriculum Support
- ✓ If you have questions, contact Amy Hardee, Jackie Baldwin, or Diane Conley.

PCCTE (Polk County Council of Teachers of English)

Val Mercak, PCCTE First Vice President, ESOL teacher at Lakeland Senior High School,

- Membership and Recruitment
 - Complete membership form on LA website
 - Membership is \$15. Take advantage of the discounted rate of \$10, ending on 9/20/09.

- Speak to your school's PCCTE Contact Person (If needed, refer to PCCTE school contact list on LA website.)
- Benefits of Joining PCCTE
 - Informative newsletter with current PCCTE happenings (Newsletter is paperless, sent online and posted on LA website.)
 - Voting privileges on PCCTE business
 - Opportunity to apply for a professional development \$500 grant and English Teacher of the Year
 - Active participation in the Polk County Poetry Contest
 - Teacher appreciation gifts and functions
 - Giving input to Language Arts/Reading district-level concerns
 - Networking with other English/reading teachers
 - An opportunity to serve as a board member and work on a committee

Spelling Bee – Middle School

Elizabeth Lundkvist Long, Spelling Bee Coordinator, teacher at Mulberry Middle School

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- Purpose: To promote higher vocabulary and enrich reading skills for our middle school students.
- Spelling Bee Regionals: Will be held during the month of November.
- County Spelling Bee Final Competition: Will be held in the month of February
- Guidelines & Rules:
 - Spelling Bee is only for 6th, 7th, and 8th graders ONLY
 - Participation in Regionals: 3 students, one per grade level
 - All student information must be submitted to Elizabeth Long before attending regionals.
- Please utilize Spelling Bee Website, link on LA website
 - Dates & times
 - Regional locations will be assigned based on location due to energy conservation.
 - Word list in PDF format
 - Contact forms
 - Student, sponsor, and school information forms

Have a year full of learning and success!
Remember, the quality of expectations determines the quality of our action.

