

GRADE 7 ELA UPDATE

"Today a reader; tomorrow a leader." - Margaret Fuller

April 2017

APRIL'S CLASSROOM FOCUS

7th grade students will take a closer look at complex informational texts, exploring the main ideas and using strategies to dig deeper into the author's meaning and purpose.

They will also begin exploring different types of text structures found in all of our readings. Our major focus will be the following types of text structure:

- Description
- Chronological
- Sequence
- Compare/contrast
- Cause/effect
- Problem/solution

Ultimately, students will be generating a brochure or other similar product that uses different types of writing structures focusing on one topic. They will be reinforcing the skills of research learned over the winter as they

continue to gather credible information and cite the texts they are using in a *Works Cited* page following MLA guidelines.

Also, throughout April, our students in grades 3-8 will be taking part in ELA MCAS testing. Thank you for supporting their efforts, as this data is critical as we continuously improve instruction to meet the needs of all learners.

EXTENDING THE LEARNING AT HOME

Sometimes a student's greatest challenge in starting any type of project is not knowing how to get information. Our students spend a great deal of time *Googling* sites without using specific focus words, or they flip through a book expecting information to jump out at them.

Take some time this month to show your child how you use the internet to help you in everyday tasks such as locating and evaluating reviews on a product before you purchase it. Help them navigate a cookbook looking for recipes based on an ingredient, or have

them follow procedural directions in a manual to help you build an item. These skills require understanding how a text is organized and will benefit them throughout life. Parents know best how to make this learning relevant to their own children.

Reading Recommendations

<i>The Mysterious Benedict Society</i> by Trenton Lee Stewart	Gr 6
<i>Be a Changemaker</i> by Laurie Ann Thompson & Bill	Gr 7
<i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> by Mark Twain	Gr 8

*April: MA ELA State Standards

- RI.7.2. Determine two or more central ideas in a text and analyze their development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.
- RI.7.5. Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text, including how the major sections contribute to the whole and to the development of the ideas.
- W.7.2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.

Other ELA/Reading standards are addressed during the month of April as well.

If you have any questions about WPS' ELA/Reading Curriculum, please contact Chris Tolpa, Supervisor of Humanities:

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