



COURSE GUIDE

LANGUAGE ARTS



CALVERT
ACADEMY™

Language Arts

KINDERGARTEN LANGUAGE ARTS

2 Semesters

Kindergarten Language Arts is a beginning language course that focuses on the key components of phonics, as well as basic language skills. Two colorful workbooks filled with drills in consonants, vowels, and blending lay the foundation for reading. Additional topics include alphabetical order, patterns, capital letters, periods, number words, and more.

1ST GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

2 Semesters

1st Grade Language Arts is a comprehensive phonics-based language course that integrates phonics, reading, and grammar. Through this colorful course, students encounter skills such as rhyming words, consonant digraphs and blends, vowel digraphs, R-controlled vowels, and diphthongs, as well as basic grammar skills to take students from “learning to read” to “reading to learn.”

2ND GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

2 Semesters

2nd Grade Language Arts integrates grammar, spelling, reading, and writing into one comprehensive curriculum. Building on a strong phonics base, this course touches on critical language topics such as building sentences, punctuation, prefixes, suffixes, nouns, verbs and more.

3RD GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

2 Semesters

3rd Grade Language Arts focuses on the sequential development and integration of communication skills in the major areas of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students are introduced to basic reading skills, as well as reading strategies to use in short stories, a short play, poetry, and fables.

4TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

2 Semesters

4th Grade Language Arts continues to build students' fluency and independent reading skills by further developing comprehension strategies via a wide variety of genres, including fiction, nonfiction, and poetry. Using a more complex paragraph structure and integrated application of their speaking skills, students also write in a variety of genres like fictional stories, poetry, and an informational report.

5TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

2 Semesters

5th Grade Language Arts places special attention on reading non-fiction texts. Students identify text features and explain how graphic elements lead to comprehension and continue to build grammar skills in support of clear communication. In addition, speaking skills are built upon through memorization and recitation of Abraham Lincoln's powerful Gettysburg Address.

6TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

2 Semesters

This course eases students' transition to middle school with engaging, age-appropriate literary and informational reading selections. Students learn to read critically, analyze texts, and cite evidence to support ideas as they read essential parts of literary and informational texts and explore a full unit on Lewis Carroll's classic novel *Through the Looking Glass*.

7TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

2 Semesters

Students grow as readers, writers, and thinkers in this middle-school course. With engaging literary and informational texts, students learn to think critically, analyze an author's language, and cite evidence to support ideas. Students complete an in-depth study of Jack London's classic novel *White Fang*, and read excerpts from other stories, poetry, and nonfiction.

8TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

2 Semesters

In this course, students build on their knowledge and blossom as thoughtful readers and clear, effective writers. A balance of literary and informational text engages students throughout the course in reading critically, analyzing texts, and citing evidence to support claims. Students sharpen their vocabulary, grammar, and listening skills through lessons designed to provide explicit modeling and ample opportunities to practice.

ENGLISH I

2 Semesters

This freshman-year English course invites students to explore diverse texts organized into thematic units. Students will engage in literary analysis and inferential evaluation of great texts both classic and contemporary. While critically reading fiction, poetry, drama, and literary nonfiction, students will master comprehension and literary-analysis strategies. Interwoven in the lessons across two semesters are activities that encourage students to strengthen their oral language skills and produce clear, coherent writing. Students read a range of classic texts including Homer's *The Odyssey*, Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, and Richard Connell's "The Most Dangerous Game."

ENGLISH II

2 Semesters

This sophomore-year English course invites students to explore a diverse selection of world literature organized into thematic units. While critically reading fiction, poetry, drama, and expository nonfiction, students learn essential reading comprehension strategies and engage in literary analysis and evaluation of both classic and contemporary works. Interwoven in the lessons across two semesters are activities that encourage students to strengthen their listening and speaking skills and produce clear, coherent writing. Throughout the course, students read a range of classic and contemporary literary texts including Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House*, George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, and Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis*.

ENGLISH III

2 Semesters

This junior-year English course invites students to delve into American literature, from early American Indian voices through thoughtful contemporary works. Students will engage in literary analysis and inferential evaluation of great texts, the centerpieces of this course. While critically reading fiction, poetry, drama, and expository nonfiction, students master comprehension and literary-analysis strategies. Students will read a range of short but complex texts, including works by Ralph Waldo Emerson, Emily Dickinson, Herman Melville, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Martin Luther King, Jr., F. Scott Fitzgerald, Sandra Cisneros, Amy Tan, and Dave Eggers.

ENGLISH IV

2 Semesters

This senior-year English Language Arts course invites you to explore a diverse collection of texts organized into thematic units. You will engage in literary analysis and inferential evaluation of both classic and contemporary literature. While critically reading fiction, poetry, drama, and expository nonfiction, you will learn comprehension and literary-analysis strategies. Tasks encourage you to strengthen your oral language skills and produce creative, coherent writing. You will read a range of classic texts including the ancient epic *Gilgamesh*, William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, and Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATIONS AND SPEECH

1 Semester

Beginning with an introduction that builds student understanding of the elements, principles, and characteristics of human communication, this course offers fascinating insight into verbal and nonverbal messages and cultural and gender differences in the areas of listening and responding. The course concludes with units on informative and persuasive speeches, and students are given the opportunity to critique and analyze speeches in the course.

EXPOSITORY READING AND WRITING

2 Semesters

This elective English course is designed to develop critical reading and writing skills while preparing high school students to meet the demands of college-level work. While students explore some critical reading skills in fiction and poetry, the focus of this course is on expository and persuasive texts and the analytical reading skills necessary for college success. Students read a range of short but complex texts, including works by Walt Whitman, Cesar Chavez, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., Amy Tan, Langston Hughes, Ayn Rand, Naomi Shihab Nye, Maya Angelou, and Gary Soto.



