

Weiser School District
Writing Curriculum

Grade: 8 (level 203-204)

	Concepts/Skills What concepts/skills will be taught?	Expected Learning Outcomes What do I want students to be able to do with the concepts and skills that are taught?	Suggested Activities What strategies will I use to present this material?	Resources What resources are needed to assist my instruction?	Assessment How will I know that students understand the concepts or can demonstrate the skills?
AUGUST	Grammar/Literature Pre-assessment Narrative Writing Unit Trait Focus: Ideas and Conventions Grammar Focus: Nouns and Pronouns	Compose a piece of writing based on a personal experience. Select appropriate nouns and pronouns and apply correctly in writing.	Read narrative short story Narrative Writing Assignment Noun and pronoun review/ introduction and practice	Literature Books Grammar Books	Pre-assessment Narrative paper evaluated on the traits of ideas and conventions. Noun and Pronoun Quiz

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SEPTEMBER	Expository Writing Unit Introduction Body Conclusion Transitions Trait Focus: Organization and Conventions Grammar Focus: Verbs	Construct a five paragraph essay with ideas organized into an introduction, body, and conclusion. Apply transitions correctly in student essay to enhance organization. Distinguish between different types of verbs and their tenses.	Read descriptive short stories Write a descriptive essay Verb Practice	Literature Books Grammar Books	Complete a descriptive essay to be evaluated on the traits of organization and conventions. Verb Quiz

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OCTOBER	Expository Writing Unit Supporting Details Trait: Ideas, Sentence Fluency, and Conventions Grammar Focus: Adjectives	Compose a piece of writing with strong details in the body paragraphs and varied sentence structure.	Read descriptive short stories Write a descriptive essay WOW Essay Adjective Practice	Literature Books Grammar Books Student Writing Samples	Descriptive essay evaluated on ideas, sentence fluency, and conventions WOW

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NOVEMBER	Expository Writing Unit (DWA Prep) Introductions Revising Trait: Word Choice and Conventions Grammar: Adverbs	Develop various styles of introductions. Construct a variety of introductions in the revision process. Illustrate use of vivid verbs and creative adjectives and adverbs in writing. Differentiate between adjectives and adverbs.	Short Stories Prompt reading practice Describe/Explain essay Evaluate student samples Adverb Practice Adjective Review	Grammar Books Literature Books Student Writing Samples	Expository essay evaluated on its introduction in relation to the paper and the traits of word choice and conventions. Adjective/Adverb Quiz

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DECEMBER	Literature Unit Elements of a Story Prefixes and Suffixes Trait: Evaluate traits in literature Grammar Focus: Prepositions	Discuss events in a story and synthesize with the elements of a story definitions. Demonstrate knowledge of prefixes and suffixes. Identify prepositions in different types of writing.	DWA (Early December) Novels or Short Stories (Introduction to the elements of a story) Decoding complex vocabulary Letter Writing Preposition Introduction and Practice	Novels Literature Books Grammar Books	DWA Vocabulary Quiz Preposition Quiz

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JANUARY	Literature Unit (Complete from December) Elements of a Story Poetry Unit/Research Paper Unit	Evaluate a story and determine its plot elements. Illustrate understanding of selected poetry terms.	Novels Short Stories Figurative Language Read and Evaluate Poems	Literature Books Novels	Literature Assessment Poetry Assessment

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FEBRUARY	Research Paper Unit/Poetry Unit Note taking Paraphrasing Library Research Trait: Organization and Conventions Grammar: Parts of Speech	Locate relevant information within a variety of sources following the required steps of a research project. Synthesize the information and compose a coherent piece of writing.	Note taking Practice Paraphrasing Practice Library Research Evaluate sample research papers	Literature Books Grammar Books Teacher Created Materials	Research Paper

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MARCH	Informative Writing Unit Two Part Essay Unit (Prep for spring WOW)	Develop a piece of writing that explains how to complete a task. Analyze a complicated prompt and then compose a coherent essay that responds exactly to the prompt.	Read an informative short story “How to...” Writing Assignment Compare/Contrast practice with short stories	Literature Books Grammar Books Literature Books Student Writing Samples	Informative Writing Assignment Two-part essay evaluated with the six traits that correctly interprets a difficult prompt

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APRIL	Expository Writing Unit (Spring WOW) Persuasive Essay Trait: All six traits Grammar: Review	Justify a particular opinion to persuade the reader to agree. Synthesize grammar concepts taught and identify correct grammar.	Persuasion Activities (Jury Trial) Writing a persuasive essay Cumulative Grammar Reviews	Literature Books Grammar Books	WOW Persuasive Essay Cumulative Grammar Quizzes

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MAY	Literature Unit Elements of a story Prefixes and Suffixes Responding to Literature Grammar/Literature Post-assessment	Demonstrate a meaningful understanding of a novel or short story. Increased understanding of literature and grammar concepts.	Novels or Short Stories Literary Responses	Novels Literature Books	Comprehension Assessment Written Response to Literature Final Assessment