

# **PRESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## **English/Language Arts Curriculum**

### **Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**MISSION STATEMENT:** The purpose of this curriculum is to align English/Language Arts instruction as developed under Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) Frameworks with Common Core State (CCS) Standards for English/Language Arts (ELA). Using documentation prepared by the CSDE, this curriculum anchors and defines literacy instruction based on CCS Standards; relevant and appropriate CSDE Framework Grade Level Expectations are matched with those standards. CCS Standards define end-of-year expectations and a cumulative progression designed to enable students to meet college and career readiness expectations no later than the end of high school. Significant components of these standards include:

- Individual grade level standards for grades kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade;
- A focus on desired results rather than program prescriptions; teachers are free to provide students with whatever tools and knowledge their professional judgment and experience identify as most helpful for meeting the goals set forth in the Standards;
- ELA domains—Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, Language—are integrated; the processes of each domain are closely connected;
- Research and media skills are integrated to ensure students develop skills necessary to answer questions or solve problems;
- Responsibility for literacy development extends across content areas; teachers of content areas outside of ELA (i.e., science, social studies) have a role in developing student literacy;
- Instruction and assessment of individual standards is meant to be focused and coherent. Therefore, units of instruction and assessment have been developed that prioritize standards, break out content and skills to be taught and assessed, and provide recommended summative assessments.

English/Language Arts Curriculum Committee Members:

Arline McCullen – PVMS (Kindergarten)

Ruth Friess – PVMS (1<sup>st</sup> Grade)

Lisa Clark – PVMS (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

Jennifer Thom – PVMS (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)

Daniel Rearick – PVMS (4<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Sandra Bosko – PVMS (5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Judith Ghattas – PPMS (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Christopher Pickett – PPMS (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grades)

Ivy Davis, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education.

Approved by Preston Board of Education on August 13, 2012