



Trinity Episcopal School

Galveston, Texas

English Language Arts (ELA)

Overview

The ELA curriculum supports the development of a *life-long love of reading* and gives a solid foundation for *higher order thinking*. Instruction occurs in the context of a literature-rich environment. Parents are encouraged to keep books at home and to read with their children. Lessons are taught using both global strategies (i.e., guided reading) and analytical strategies (i.e., decoding words) in order to meet the needs of students who *learn best in different ways*. The curriculum will encourage and support active participation by the learner including the *effective communication of ideas* both orally and in writing. Trinity graduates are well-known as confident communicators; the foundation for this skill begins early in a Trinity education.

Student Objectives

begins:

Listening:

- | | |
|---|------|
| listen responsively to material read aloud | PK 2 |
| analyze a speaker's message for content and purpose | PK 3 |
| use phonological awareness to understand spoken words | PK 4 |

Speaking:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| contribute to group discussions using correct grammar | PK 3 |
| act out plays, poems and stories | PK 2 |
| Present oral reports to classmates | 1 |
| Develop poise and skill reading to large (whole school) groups | 4 th Grade |

Reading (includes literature):

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| read silently with comprehension | 1 st Grade |
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read to extend vocabulary, gather information, and solve problems	<i>1st Grade</i>
use syntax and contextual clues to id unfamiliar words	<i>K</i>
use structural analysis to id unfamiliar words	<i>K</i>
use structural analysis to define unfamiliar words	<i>1st Grade</i>
draw and support inferences and conclusions from texts	<i>PK 4</i>
identify and analyze different genres	<i>K</i>
apply higher order thinking to texts: synthesis, analysis, evaluation	<i>K</i>

Writing (includes grammar and composition):

Write each letter of alphabet	<i>PK 4</i>
Use fine motor skills to develop penmanship	<i>PK 2</i>
Spelling sight words	<i>K</i>
Spelling analytically	<i>1st Grade</i>
Use language mechanics: capitalization, punctuation, grammar	<i>K</i>
Use pre-writing strategies	<i>K</i>
Ability to characterize and practice good writing (i.e., 6+1 Traits, Schaffer Approach)	<i>2nd Grade</i>
compose original multiple sentence texts	<i>1st Grade</i>
write to achieve specific purposes	<i>2nd Grade</i>
write a research paper including references and bibliography (MLA)	<i>6th Grade</i>