



Middle School ELA

Curriculum Update
May 5, 2022





AGENDA

1. Strategic Plan Connection
2. Committee
3. Timeline
4. Professional Learning
5. Resource
6. Cost
7. Impact

AHSD25

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Strategic Plan Connection



In Arlington Heights School District 25, we **empower an inclusive, diverse community of learners to innovate and thrive as global citizens.** Through our literacy instruction at the middle school level, we use high impact teaching strategies to **ensure all learners are academically ready for high school.** Our middle school students are provided opportunities to learn and thrive with literacy experiences that **ensure high student engagement and ownership of their learning.** Student experiences are differentiated to **meet the needs of all students and close performance gaps.**

Committee



- All English Language Arts Teachers & Advanced Language Arts Teachers
- Building Administrators
- Literacy Coordinator
- Student Learning Coaches
- Assistant Superintendent of Student Learning

Timeline

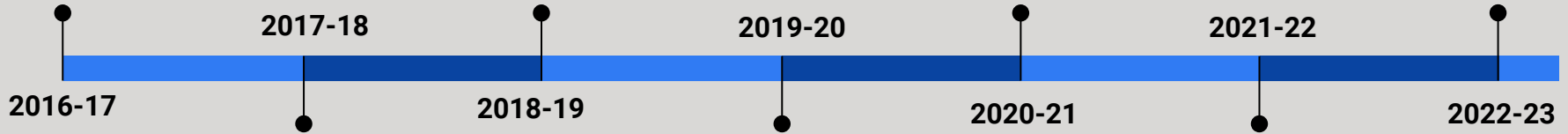


- Reviewed best practice, standards & research
- Selected 2 resources to pilot

- Reviewed newly published Units of Study
- Site visits

- Continued professional learning

- Full Implementation of Units of Study
- Continue professional learning



- Completed both pilots
- Explored additional resource, Units of Study

- Selected Units of Study to pilot
- Completed professional learning and training for all Units of Study

- Continue professional learning
- Develop scope and sequence

Professional Learning



Topics covered will include:

- Reading Instruction
- Writing Instruction
- Assessment
- Grading

Resource



Teachers College Reading and Writing Project Units of Study prepare students for reading and writing tasks they will face in the future and develop confident readers and writers who display agency and independence.

The **reading units** offer a framework for teaching the skills and strategies of proficient reading. Performance assessments and learning progressions help teachers monitor progress, lead small group instruction, and set next-step goals.

Built on best practices and a proven framework, the **writing units** support explicit instruction, provide rich opportunities for practice, and help teachers use learning progressions to set students on trajectories of growth.

Resource



Grade	Reading	Writing
6th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Deep Study of Character● Social Issues Book Clubs● Tapping into the Power of Nonfiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Narrative● The Literary Essay● Research Based Information Writing
7th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Historical Fiction Book Clubs● Dystopian Book Clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Realistic Fiction● Writing About Reading● The Art of Argument
8th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Critical Literacy: Unlocking Contemporary Fiction● Essential Research Skills for Teens	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Investigative Journalism● The Literary Essay● Position Papers

Cost



Item	Cost	Type
Units of Study Teacher Manuals	\$13,036.17	One time cost Purchased in 2017 through 2019
Student Novels	\$25,000	One time cost Enrichment of classroom libraries and built into 2022-24 DSL budget
Student Novels	\$0 - \$10,000	Annual cost Need-based and built into existing DSL budget

Impact



Todd Slowinski

- 8th Grade ELA/ALA Teacher
- Thomas Middle School

<- (click to play video)

Impact



Units of Study Nonfiction Book Clubs

Reading Nonfiction

- Become familiar with the text.
- Generate questions and ideas.
- Notice fascinating parts.
- Determine possible central ideas.
- Look for supporting details.
- Craft a brief summary.
- Synthesize across texts.
- Study how ideas, events or people

Highlights

- Students had 8 nonfiction books to choose from with a variety of topics.
- Students had daily opportunities to have rich conversations about their book club book.
- Students had opportunities to read nonfiction articles related to their topic to broaden their knowledge on similar subject matter.
- Students became "experts" on topic and were able to make a nonfiction newspaper including information from the Book Club and the related articles they read.

Christine Fontanetta

- 6th Grade ELA Teacher
- South Middle School

[← \(click to play video\)](#)



Questions?