

# ***Reading & Language Arts***

## **2008—2009**

**STEGER SCHOOL DISTRICT 194**

**Columbia Central School**

94 West Richton Road

Steger, Illinois 60475

Phone: 708.755.0021

### **READING & LANGUAGE ARTS**

**6th Grade Reading:** The 6th grade reading curriculum employs the text from Houghton Mifflin *Reading Triumphs* and a range of ability-focused novels. In order to develop basic comprehension skills, the students will apply different strategies to improve comprehension by predicting, identifying, finding the main idea, taking notes, and outlining. The students will analyze and comprehend information through outside sources using book reports, independent reading, and research materials. Literary devices such as themes, plots, settings, similes, figurative language, and literal meaning will be identified. Oral presentations, weekly comprehension and vocabulary tests will be used as evaluation tools.

#### **6th Grade Novels:**

*Holes*

*Number the Stars*

*The Egypt Game*

*George's Marvelous Medicine*

*The River*

*Summer of the Monkeys*

**6th Grade Language Arts:** The 6th grade Language Arts curriculum incorporates the use of the textbook, McGraw Hill *Language Arts* to encourage basic knowledge of grammar usage and writing for a variety of audiences. The students are taught to effectively communicate ideas through narrative, expository, and persuasive writing using writing prompts, journal entries, story starters, and group writing. The skills of grammar and sentence structure will be developed through daily assignments, formal writing and oral speaking. The students will be assessed on their writing samples and knowledge of grammar skills.

**7th and 8th Grade Reading:** The Reading curriculum employs the use of the McDougal-Littell series *The Language of Literature* in addition to ability- and age-appropriate novels to focus on comprehension, analysis and vocabulary skills. A variety of reading strategies are practiced in

Recreated from information in  
Curriculum Brochure  
Copy available at Schools

order to allow students to set a purpose for reading and to assist in the understanding of the text. Vocabulary skills are sharpened through the study of word origins and usage in text. Students will be assessed based on quizzes, tests, worksheets, bookwork and rubrics. Honors courses use a more accelerated focus with an emphasis on critical and abstract thinking.

**7th Grade Novels:**

*Brian's Winter*

*Friederich*

*Farewell to Manzanar*

*The Giver*

*The Great Chicago Fire*

*Johnnie Tremaine*

*Julie of the Wolves*

*Maniac Magee*

*Long Way From Chicago*

*The Miracle Worker*

*My Life with the Chimpanzees*

*Out of the Dust*

*Nothing But the Truth*

**8th Grade Novels:**

*Across Five Aprils*

*The Contender*

*Bridge to Terabithia*

*New Force*

*The Ear, the Eye and the Arm*

*Night*

*Freak the Mighty*

*The Outsiders*

*A Year Down Yonder*

*Myths and Legends from Around the World*

**7th and 8th Grade Language Arts:** The objective of the Language portion of our studies focuses on the structure of writing using our textbook, McDougal Littell's *Language Network* by emphasizing prewriting, drafting, peer editing and publishing. Narrative, expository and persuasive prompts are discussed and modeled with a supportive emphasis on grammar, structure, proper usage and mechanics. Students are engaged in various activities throughout the year in oral reports and written expression evaluated by the rubric developed at state and local levels, and various worksheets, quizzes, and tests provided by the publisher and teacher input. Skills developed during 7th Grade are strengthened and refined during the 8th Grade curriculum process.

**6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Reading Guidance:** The Reading Guidance curriculum focuses on the five components of reading. The five components of reading are: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and text comprehension. Students use various materials to meet individualized reading abilities such as *Bridge to Literature, Levels 1 and 2* and *Worldly Wide, Levels 2 through 4*. Students orally read various novels of varying genres. Literature skills emphasized are main idea, supportive details, comprehension strategies, and test-taking skills. Students are encouraged to learn word analysis and increase their vocabulary to become better readers. Students will be assessed through worksheets, group and individual projects, short oral and written tests, and standardized tests.

**6th, 7th & 8th Grade Resource:** The grade level resource teacher / case manager works with each special education student's IEP to achieve benchmarks and objectives. This is achieved using grade level text and supplemental materials when appropriate. The case manager works individually or in small group settings with the student through inclusion, pull-out, and/or co-teaching. Accommodations and modifications as stated in the IEP are provided to support student learning. In addition to working on IEP goals, students are taught study skills, study strategies, and individual responsibility. Annual achievement testing and IEP review will be conducted to determine individual student strengths and needs.

### **OUR MISSION**

The mission of Columbia Central School is to provide 6th, 7th, and 8th grade district students with the academic, social, and technological experiences necessary for them to be successful as high school students and as healthy, responsible, inquisitive, and productive members of their communities.

### **ILLINOIS STATE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS GOALS:**

1. Read with understanding and fluency
2. Read and understand literature representative of various societies, eras, and ideas
3. Write to communicate a variety of purposes
4. Listen and speak effectively in a variety of situations
5. Use the language arts to acquire, assess, and communicate information

**STEGER  
SCHOOL DISTRICT 194  
[www.sd194.org](http://www.sd194.org)**

**COLUMBIA CENTRAL**  
94 West Richton Road  
Steger, Illinois 60475

Phone: 708.755.0021  
Fax: 708.755.1877

Recreated from information in  
Curriculum Brochure  
Copy available at Schools

**EASTVIEW SCHOOL**

3411 Hopkins Avenue  
Steger, Illinois 60475  
Phone: 708.754.4033  
Fax: 708.755.1884

Phone: 708.755.0020

Fax: 708.755.5706

**PARKVIEW SCHOOL**

100 West Richton Road  
Steger, Illinois 60475

**SAUKVIEW SCHOOL**

3341 Miller Avenue  
So. Chicago Heights,  
Illinois 60411  
Phone: 708.755.9600  
Fax: 708.755.1921

For additional information on the Illinois Learning Standards and Descriptors visit the Illinois State Board of Education website at [www.isbe.state.il.us/ils/default.htm](http://www.isbe.state.il.us/ils/default.htm)  
or  
the Steger School District 194 website at [www.sd194.org](http://www.sd194.org)