

# Harris County-Carver Middle School

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*Stacey Carlisle*  
*Principal*

*Lindie Snyder*  
*Assistant Principal*

*Carl Dekker*  
*Assistant Principal*

H – High Expectations  
C – Challenging Curriculum  
C – Community Involvement  
+M – Motivated Students  
S – Success

## 2014-2015 Eighth Grade Language Arts/Reading

This course is designed to help students become better communicators by using language effectively. Since reading comprehension is an essential skill for all students in each content area and in each grade, success in language arts/reading can facilitate success in other subject areas as well. Overall, with sufficient effort your child can become a better reader, writer, and speaker as a result of being in this class.

### Curriculum

The eighth grade curriculum for language arts and reading incorporates and focuses on the English Language Arts Common Core Georgia Performance Standards. The complete listing of Common Core Georgia Performance Standards is available upon request or can be downloaded at <https://www.georgiastandards.org/Common-Core/Pages/ELA-6-8.aspx>. Following are highlights from the major domain areas:

**Literary and Informational Reading Standards. ELACC8RI1-10 and ELACC8RII-10.** These standards include students determining and analyzing the key ideas, details, craft, and structure of literary and informational texts, evaluating the use of different forms of media, and reading and comprehending texts of appropriate complexity for the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade.

**Writing Standards. ELACC8WI-10.** These standards include students effectively writing argumentative, explanatory/informational, and narrative texts via the writing process. Students will also use various forms of media and technology to gather and evaluate information in order to complete research projects that demonstrate analysis and reflection. Students will practice writing over short and extended time frames to meet the requirements of discipline-specific tasks.

**Speaking and Listening Standards. ELACC8SL1-6.** These standards include students preparing for and engaging in a range of collaborative and collegial discussions in which they cite evidence, pose questions, and acknowledge new information, as well as integrate multimedia and visual displays and adapt their speech to a variety of contexts and tasks.

**Language. ELACC8L1-6.** These standards include students demonstrating a command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing and speaking, acquiring and using new vocabulary, and demonstrating an understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

### Textbooks and Materials

Prentice Hall's *Literature: Language and Literacy* and McDougall Littell's *Language Network* are the basal texts for this course. If issued to students, these books must be covered. Various novels will also be issued throughout the year. Students must bring a Five-Star 5- Subject composition notebook, blue or black pen and pencils, and a computer flash drive/thumb drive as needed.

### Grading Policy

Classwork 50%      Homework 10%      Tests/Quizzes 25%      Nine weeks exam 15%

Throughout the year, special projects such as research papers will be given a different grade weight. Students are expected to maintain academic integrity. This means that all work a student submits is expected to be his or her own work and free from plagiarism, cheating, or any other unauthorized assistance.

### Make-up Work

The school policy concerning make-up work will be adhered to, as indicated in the [HCCMS Student Handbook](#).

## Classroom Behavior

All school policies concerning behavior, tardiness, and dress code will be followed and enforced. The school's point system will be used in class as a means of discipline.

## Parent Connect

All parents with internet access are encouraged to become registered users of Campus Portal so that they may keep up with their child's progress in all classes. First-time users should see Mrs. Hutton in the main school office for registration information. Campus Portal Website: <https://campus.harris.k12.ga.us/campus/portal/harris.jsp> or follow the link on the Harris County School System web page.

## Contact Information

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## Curriculum Schedule

The major components of the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards include reading literary and informational texts, writing, speaking and listening, and language conventions. A basic curriculum schedule for the year is as follows:

### First Nine Weeks

Extended Information Text and Thematically Connected Short Texts  
Vocabulary Development & Poetry Connections  
Writing (Argumentative, Informative, Narrative, and Research)  
Language Conventions  
Speaking and Listening Activities

### Second Nine Weeks

Extended Literary Text and Thematically Connected Short Texts  
Vocabulary Development & Poetry Connections  
Writing (Argumentative, Informative, Narrative, and Research)  
Language Conventions  
Speaking and Listening Activities

### Third Nine Weeks

Extended Information Text and Thematically Connected Short Texts  
Vocabulary Development & Poetry Connections  
Writing (Argumentative, Informative, Narrative, and Research)  
Language Conventions  
Speaking and Listening Activities

### Fourth Nine Weeks

Extended Literary Text and Thematically Connected Short Texts  
Vocabulary Development & Poetry Connections  
Writing (Argumentative, Informative, Narrative, and Research)  
Language Conventions  
Speaking and Listening Activities

I hereby confirm that I have read and understand the above course information and behavior guidelines. I agree to abide by these guidelines. I understand that should I not abide by school and class procedures and/or policies that the teacher has the right to enforce school disciplinary policy.

Student Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_