K-12 English Language Arts 2019

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Mr. David White, Supervisor of ELA, 9-12
The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go.
The Clifton School District follows a Balanced Literacy Approach for ELA - Guided Reading/Writing, Shared Reading/Writing, Independent Reading and Word Work through Fundations

Fundations - Wilson Fundations makes learning to read fun while laying the groundwork for life-long literacy. Students in grades K-3 receive a systematic program in critical foundational skills, emphasizing:

- Phonemic awareness
- Phonics/ word study
- High frequency word study
- Reading fluency
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension strategies - Through Houghton Mifflin Journeys Reading Series
- Handwriting
- Spelling
Gr. K-3

- The 18-19 SY, focused on Coaching Cycles for Fundations and teaching the program to fidelity
- Updated ELA pacing with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS)
- Emphasis on Guided Reading/Shared Reading/Independent Reading
- Raz Kids - K-1-2 for home support
- Focused on developmentally appropriate practices using the NJDOE KEA Guidelines
- Accelerated Reader 360 in Grade 2 and Grade 3 to support learning goals for NJSLS
In Grades 4 & 5, pacing was updated to include common novels across district for Grades 4 and Grade 5 centered around a central theme

- Focus on comprehension and vocabulary development
- Accelerated Reader 360 to support the teaching of non-fiction/informational text
- Alignment between Social Studies and Science topics to ELA pacing
- ThinkCentral - eText
Gr. 6-8

Novel Based Curriculum driven by the New Jersey Student Learning Standards

1. Four core novels centered around one Theme/Topic
2. Accelerated Courses for Gifted and Talented/Honors Students
3. One written task per marking period (Narrative, Argumentative, Literary)
4. Use of Electronic Portfolios via Google Drive/Google Classroom
5. Accelerated Reader 360 to support non-fiction reading/informational text
6. 19-20 SY focusing on an alignment to Social Studies Topics (Holocaust, Amistad, etc.)
7. (1) Middle School Literacy Coach to support teachers in Professional Learning Communities and to provide professional development
Sharing- CCMS Accelerated Grade 8 - Accelerated Interactive Outline and Organic Thesis support the teaching of the novel - The Help
RTI - Response to Intervention

- Reading Recovery in Title One Schools (#4, #12, #14, #15 and #17)
- 3 Reading Specialists (#11, #12 & #17) that are Orton Gillingham Certified providing targeted instruction in priority areas
- 35 Wilson Reading Certified Teachers in Special Education
- 7 teachers working towards Level 2 Wilson Certification
- Basic Skills Instructors providing double dose instruction in Fundations to students in Kindergarten and First Grade
- Over 200+ teachers trained in Orton Gillingham through IMSE, 17 are Orton Gillingham Certified
K-8 ELA Assessments

- Teaching Strategies Gold - Kindergarten
- Early Literacy Green Card, K-1, Linkit Data Locker
- Gr. 2 Dyslexia Screening - Literacy Green Card, Linkit Data Locker
- Gr. 2-8 Star Reading Benchmark Assessment
- Gr. 3-8 District Model Quarterly Assessments
- Accelerated Reader/Accelerated Reader 360
Gr. 6-8 Family Literacy Night

Two Family Literacy Night’s Held in the Fall of 2018 coordinated by MS Literacy Coach.

A total of 266 adults and children attended WWMS Family Literacy Night

A total of 201 adults and children attended the CCMS Family Literacy Night
Gr. 6-8 Family Literacy Night
Accelerated Reader 360 - Gr. 2-10

Accelerated Reader 360, by Renaissance Learning, monitors and assesses reading abilities of K-12 students. Students read nonfiction and fiction texts at their reading level and complete New Jersey Student Learning Standards-aligned activities and quizzes, which are tracked in the teacher and administrator dashboard.
### AR Totals By School 17-18

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<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
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Updated Pacing at Clifton High School

● Reading six novels a year allows for in depth focus on the standards aligning to the novels.
● Pacing allows for classes to read several novels per year, and adds two non-fiction pieces per marking period to cover the non-fiction ELA standards.
● Clearly defined writing genres are taught each marking period
Gr. 9 and 10

Increased non-fiction reading in classes to better align with NJ SLS:

- Teachers participated in targeted professional development as both whole group and in class model lessons to give them more strategies to integrate non-fiction into their lesson plans
- Developed a revised pacing chart with fewer novel-based requirements allowing more time for short non-fiction reads
- Students and teachers thematically pair fiction and non-fiction text sets to increase their understanding of both texts via contrasting and comparisons
Gr. 11-12

English III (2019-20) and IV (2020-21) will become PCCC concurrent classes, aligning with college level Composition 101 and 102.

- Students will have the opportunity to earn English credits for college
- There will be a writing focus on portfolios, revision and research papers
- The classes still follow the same pacing
High School Reading List

- We are further diversifying our selections of characters and writers. Teacher committees have been reviewing more diverse titles to add to the high school reading list.
- Aligning the pacing to increase consistency so more classes read the same or similarly themed books.
English AP

- English IV AP focuses on British Literature.
- Adding an AP course that counts toward English III requirements. This is a Language and Composition course focusing on writing and nonfiction while still tying in American literature that is required in the English III curriculum.
- English III AP becomes the second Advanced Placement course in the English Department.
Journalism and Communications

- Journalism is taught with a focus on contributing stories to the rebooted Clifton Hub--available online at www.thecliftonhub.com

- Communications ties into the High School Academies and gives students an overview of the current media landscape
Creative Writing

- Creative Writing involves students putting together poetry and short stories for the yearly Literary Magazine *The Phoenix*