

Language Arts 9

Ms. Cox | Dixie Middle School | 2025-2026

Contact Information

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Expectations

be respectful | be responsible | stay engaged

All expectations described in the DMS Student Handbook will be enforced. The handbook can be found on the DMS website: dms.wask12.org/students

Online Resources

We will regularly use these tools:

- **ReadTheory.org** Independent reading practice
- **NoRedInk.com** Grammar and writing support
- **UtahCompose.com** Practice for writing assessments
- **CommonLit** & **Newsela** Articles for discussion and skill-building

Grades

30% - assignments, classwork 70% - GVC assessments

Required Materials

You'll need:

- Pencils & erasers (we write *a lot*)
- Highlighters (you'll mark key info in articles often)
- A 3-ring binder (we'll do binder checks to help you stay organized)

This year we'll cover:

- Short Stories & Literary Elements
- Argumentative Writing & Research
- Informational Texts
- Novel Study (title TBD)
- Poetry & Figurative Language
- Narrative Writing

Note: the average 9th grader at DMS reads on a 5th grade level (excludes honors classes). It is **imperative that parents support reading at home**

Student Goals for 9th Grade:

- Reading

 Students will be able to comprehend literature and informational texts independently and proficiently
- Writing— Students will be able to produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate for task, purpose, and audience. They will also demonstrate command of the conventions of English grammar
- Speaking and Listening

 Students will engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions

▶ DIXIE MIDDLE SCHOOL English Language Arts — "I Can" Statements

READING – I Can Unlock Meaning from What I Read	
	I can figure out the central idea or theme of a text.
	I can summarize key details that support the main idea.
	🮭 I can explain how the plot builds and changes throughout a story.
	I can make smart guesses (inferences) based on clues in the text.
	■ I can recognize how the narrator's or character's point of view affects the story.
	I can read and understand both fiction and nonfiction on my own.
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	WRITING – I Can Write with Purpose and Power
	• I can write an argument with strong reasons and evidence.
	l can explain ideas clearly in an informational essay.
	I can tell a story with clear characters, events, and a strong ending.
	I can plan, revise, and edit to make my writing better.
	√ I can use correct punctuation and grammar.
	* I can use figurative language (like similes and metaphors) to make my writing shine
	I can identify parts of speech and use them correctly.
SPEAKING & LISTENING – I Can Share and Learn with Others	
	✓ I can come to class ready to discuss what I've read.
	l can speak clearly and confidently in front of others.
	I can use slides, visuals, or videos in my presentations.

I can respect and build on others' ideas during discussions.

Creative Writing

Email: trissie.cox@washk12.org

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Course Description: Creative Writing is an engaging course that empowers students to develop their voices as writers while exploring a variety of genres, including descriptive writing, poetry, drama, and fiction. Through hands-on activities and collaborative projects, students will hone their storytelling, narrative, and technical writing skills. The course emphasizes vocabulary building, effective use of literary devices, and mastery of creative writing techniques aligned with current standards. Students will also engage in peer reviews, revision processes, and reflections to enhance their writing process and prepare them for advanced writing challenges.

Expectations

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Policies

Cellphones: Follow school policy—cell phones are not allowed during class unless explicitly permitted by the teacher.

Late Work: Due dates are flexible to support student needs, but final deadlines (hard cut-offs) will be clearly posted on Canvas.

Students will be able to...

- Create original works: Write narratives, poetry, drama, and prose using genre-specific techniques.
- Apply genre conventions: Use genre rules to craft authentic pieces.
- Collaborate on writing: Work with peers to refine and improve writing.
- **Publish and showcase:** Prepare polished works for the Soaring Eagle and other platforms.

<u>Grades</u>

30% - assignments, classwork 70% - GVC assessments

Required Materials

- Reading Book + pen/pencil: We will read 20 minutes at the start of each class
- A place to keep their papers organized (folder)

Online Resources

-Canvas



Creative Writing – I Can Statements

Welcome to Creative Writing! Below are the learning goals we'll be working toward this year. These "I Can" statements are based on the Utah Core Standards and will guide our growth as writers, readers, and collaborators.

Writing Process

- I can generate creative ideas and stay focused on my purpose.
- I can organize, revise, and edit my writing to make it stronger.

Genre & Craft

- I can learn from mentor texts and apply literary techniques.
- I can write poems, short stories, scripts, and personal pieces.
- I can use strong imagery, voice, and dialogue in my writing.

Collaboration

- I can give and receive helpful feedback.
- I can revise my work based on peer and teacher input.

Publication

- I can prepare and polish writing for class publications.
- I can contribute to and help promote our creative work.

"Words are, in my not-so-humble opinion, our most inexhaustible source of magic." — J.K. Rowling (via Albus Dumbledore)

"The pen is mightier than the sword." — Edward Bulwer-Lytton

"If you want to change the world, pick up your pen and write." — Martin Luther

Proof of Authorship: DMS – Language Arts Department

At Dixie Middle School, we value original thinking and authentic student voices. Writing is a key part of the learning process—not just a task to complete, but a way for students to develop their ideas, demonstrate understanding, and grow as communicators.

While technology tools like the Internet and AI (including ChatGPT) can be helpful for brainstorming or research, all final writing assignments must reflect **the student's own thinking and writing**.

Using Al Tools Responsibly

Students will be taught how tools like ChatGPT can support the writing process (e.g., for idea generation or outlining). However, **using Al to write all or part of your assignment for you is not allowed** unless explicitly permitted by the teacher.

If AI is used, students must clearly label:

- What tool was used
- How it was used
- What parts of the assignment reflect their own work vs. the tool's contribution

Proving the Work Is Yours

If a teacher questions the originality of a student's writing, the student may be asked to:

- Show evidence of the writing process (such as drafts or version history), and/or
- Re-do part of the assignment in class or under teacher supervision

If the Work Is Not Original

If it's determined that the writing or ideas are not the student's own:

- At the teacher's discretion, the student may be allowed to re-do the assignment
- The highest possible score on the re-do will be up to 70%
- The format and expectations of the re-do will depend on the skills and standards being assessed

Final Thought:

We believe in your voice, your ideas, and your growth. The goal isn't just to get the work done—it's to become a stronger thinker and communicator. Your writing should reflect *you*.

THE **COOLEST** STUDENT TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY!

Does your student love reading, traveling, exploring, or has ever dreamed of going to see Europe? This is an awesome opportunity for them. We will focus on the people and stories that come from these places that helped shape America.

Where will we go?

- Dublin
- Belfast
- Edinburgh
- London
- Paris



Dublin and the United Kingdom

June 1, 2027 - June 12, 2027 TourCenter ID: Cox-4751

It CAN happen!
Scholarships, payment plans, and fundraising









Student travel is important in growing, learning, and gaining real-world experience. There's hardly any better experience that can give your student these benefits. This trip is safe, full of culture, and something they will remember far longer than any material gift.



You can get more information and/or SIGN UP AT: http://www.explorica.com/Cox-4751

