

English Program: The Houghton Mifflin English series (based upon the standards for the National Council of Teachers of English and the Louisiana Grade Level Expectations in English) is used to teach the students in third through eighth grades English grammar and writing. The program builds upon grammar skills throughout the grade levels, writing techniques and how to apply the grammar in writing (usage and punctuation) as well as speaking skills. The students are taught in heterogeneously mixed homeroom classes.

Students are taught the (age-appropriate) writing process throughout the English curriculum:

Prewriting: gathering ideas, mapping ideas, listing ideas, outlining ideas

Writing: sentence construction, paragraph construction, entire writing piece construction

Revising: correcting mistakes in grammar, punctuation, sentence formation, paragraph formation, organization of sentences, paragraphs and papers

Publishing: turning in completed work, share with others when possible, use examples for all to learn about proper punctuation, grammar, organization, etc.

- **Sixth graders** learn more language usage skills and how to apply them. The focus is on the following:
 1. Grammar, Usage and Mechanics: sentences, parts of speech, phrases and clauses, complements, agreement, correct verb, pronoun and modifier usage, capital letters, punctuation marks and their proper use
 - a. Identifying and using sentences, complete subjects and complete predicates, simple subjects and simple predicates, punctuating and classifying sentences by purpose
 - b. Identifying and using parts of speech: common and proper nouns, pronouns, proper and demonstrative adjectives, nouns, pronouns and adjectives
 - c. Identifying and using verb phrases, helping verbs, action and linking verbs, transitive and intransitive verbs, adverbs, words that modify, prepositions and their objects, verbs, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions and interjections, determining parts of speech
 - d. Identifying and using: adjective and adverb phrases, independent & subordinate clauses, clauses, types of sentences
 - e. Identifying and using: direct & indirect objects, subject complements, complements
 - f. Verb agreement in number with their subjects, altering the number of subjects & verbs, proofreading for errors in pronoun-antecedent agreement
 - g. Using correct forms of irregular verbs, writing the past and past participle forms of irregular verbs, proofreading for correct verb forms
 - h. Identifying and using correct pronoun forms, pronouns used as predicate nominatives, correct forms of pronouns used as subject, direct objects, indirect objects and objects of prepositions
 - i. Identifying and using correct forms of modifiers, correcting double negatives, writing comparative and superlative forms, correcting misplaced phrases and clauses
 - j. Correcting errors in capitalization, punctuation of items in a series, compound sentences, interrupters, introductory words, phrases or clauses, using underlining,

- quotation marks, apostrophes, italics and hyphens properly, revising indirect quotations to create direct quotations, punctuating dialogue
2. Sentences and Paragraphs: writing effective sentences, paragraph construction
 - a. sentence fragments, run-on sentences, inserting words & groups of words to improve sentences, connecting subjects & verbs properly and connecting sentences properly
 - b. main idea and topic sentence in paragraphs, supporting sentences, clincher or “hook” sentences, organizing ideas, spatial order, chronological order, words that connect ideas, dividing a longer piece of writing into proper paragraphs
 3. Writing: narrative, descriptive, expository (news, explanation, compare and contrast, response, research), persuasive
 - a. prewriting
 - b. writing
 - c. revising
 - d. publishing

➤ **Seventh graders**

1. Grammar, Usage and Mechanics: sentences, parts of speech, phrases and clauses, complements, agreement, correct verb, pronoun and modifier usage, capital letters, punctuation marks and their proper use
 - a. Identifying and using sentences, sentence fragments, subjects and predicates, compound subjects and compound predicates, classifying sentences
 - b. Identifying and using parts of speech: common and proper nouns, abstract nouns, reflexive and intensive nouns pronouns, demonstrative & interrogative pronouns, adjectives, demonstrative adjectives, proper adjectives,
 - c. Identifying and using verb phrases, helping verbs, action and linking verbs, transitive and intransitive verbs, adverbs or adjectives, words that modify, prepositional phrases, conjunctions, interjections and identifying parts of speech
 - d. Identifying and using direct and indirect objects, predicate nominatives, predicate adjectives, subject complements, complements
 - e. Identifying and using: phrases, prepositional phrases as adjective and adverb phrases, verbal and verbal phrases -participle & participle phrases, gerund & gerund phrase, infinitive & infinitive phrase, appositives & appositive phrases
 - f. Identifying and using clauses, independent clause, subordinate clauses-adjective clause, adverb clause, noun clause
 - g. Sentence structure, simple sentences, compound sentences, complex sentences, compound-complex sentences
 - h. Identifying subject-verb agreement, pronouns that agree with their antecedents, number, problems in agreement-phrases & clauses between subjects and verbs, indefinite pronouns, compound subjects
 - i. Identifying and using correct forms of irregular verbs, using “lie and lay, sit and set, rise and raise” correctly, making tenses consistent, identifying active and passive voice
 - j. Identifying and using correct forms of pronouns, correct forms of personal pronouns, nominative, objective and possessive case pronouns, “who and whom” usage, appositives, reflexive pronouns

- k. Identifying and using correct forms of modifiers, correcting misplaced or dangling modifiers, adjective versus adverb, regular & irregular comparison of modifiers, comparative and superlative forms of modifiers, double negatives, placement of prepositional, participle & adjective clauses
 - l. Correcting errors in capitalization, correcting sentences by adding end marks, commas, semicolons & colons, using commas in items in a series, compound sentences, interrupters, introductory words, phrases or clauses, using underlining, quotation marks, apostrophes, italics, hyphens parentheses, brackets and dashes
2. Sentences and Paragraphs
- a. sentence fragments, identifying run-on sentences and correcting run-on sentences, combining sentences by inserting words, inserting phrases, use of “and, but, or,” with compound subjects and verbs and compound sentences, combining sentences using subordinate clauses and clauses that begin with “who, which or that,” using beginning words of time or place
 - b. main idea and topic sentence in paragraphs, supporting sentences with sensory details, facts or examples, ensure there is unity and coherence in the paragraph, use order of details, such as chronological, spatial, logical or order of importance, use transitional words, identify the types of paragraphs (narrative, expository, descriptive and persuasive)
3. Writing: narrative, descriptive, expository (news, explanation, compare and contrast, response, research), persuasive paragraphs or papers, **use the writing process**:
- a. prewriting
 - b. writing
 - c. revising
 - d. publishing

Eighth graders delve further into the grammar, mechanics and usage of the English language and how to communicate through writing. The following are focus points in the eighth grade:

- 1. Grammar, Usage and Mechanics: sentences, parts of speech, phrases and clauses, complements, agreement, correct verb, pronoun and modifier usage, capital letters, punctuation marks and their proper use
 - e. Identifying and using sentences, subjects and predicates, punctuating and classifying sentences
 - f. Identifying and using types of nouns, types of pronouns, adjectives
 - g. Identifying and using types of verbs, verb phrases, adverbs, prepositions and prepositional phrases, and conjunctions
 - h. Identifying and using: propositional phrases, adjective and adverb phrases, identifying and classifying verb phrases
 - i. Identifying and using: independent & subordinate clauses, simple & compound sentences, compound & complex sentences, classifying simple, compound and complex sentences; classifying sentences by structure
 - j. Determining subject-verb agreement, determining pronoun and antecedent agreement
 - k. Using correct forms of irregular verbs, changing tenses of verbs, making verb tense consistent, identifying active and passive voice

- l. Identifying and using correct pronoun forms, correcting errors in pronoun forms
 - m. Identifying and using correct forms of modifiers, writing comparative and superlative forms of modifiers, correcting double comparisons & double negatives, correcting misplaced and dangling modifiers
 - n. Verb agreement in number with their subjects, altering the number of subjects & verbs, proofreading for errors in pronoun-antecedent agreement
 - o. Using correct forms of irregular verbs, writing the past and past participle forms of irregular verbs, proofreading for correct verb forms
 - p. Identifying and using correct pronoun forms, pronouns used as predicate nominatives, correct forms of pronouns used as subject, direct objects, indirect objects and objects of prepositions
 - q. Identifying and using correct forms of modifiers, correcting double negatives, writing comparative and superlative forms, correcting misplaced phrases and clauses
 - r. Correcting errors in capitalization, using end marks, commas and colons correctly, , using underlining, quotation marks, dashes, parentheses & brackets, punctuating dialogue correctly, using apostrophes and hyphens
2. Sentences and Paragraphs: writing effective sentences, paragraph construction
 - s. sentence fragments, run-on sentences, inserting words & phrases, connecting subjects & verbs properly and connecting sentences properly using “and, but, or or,” beginning clauses using “who, which, that,” making clauses with words of time or place
 - t. main idea and topic sentence in paragraphs, location & importance of the topic sentence, supporting sentences, clincher or “hook” sentences, unity, coherence with order of details and transitional words
4. Writing: narrative, descriptive, expository (news, explanation, compare and contrast, response, research), persuasive
 - a. prewriting
 - b. writing
 - c. revising
 - d. publishing