

JOHN BARSBY COMMUNITY SCHOOL
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The aim of English Language Arts is to provide students with opportunities for personal and intellectual growth through speaking, listening, reading, viewing, writing, and representing to make meaning of the world and to prepare them to participate effectively in all aspects of society.

At JBCS, the English Department is committed to improving the reading, writing and learning skills of our students.

- Students begin the semester with a comprehensive reading and writing assessment to identify their strengths and challenges and to determine an improvement plan.
- Students end the semester with a comprehensive reading and writing assessment to identify how students have improved and to share information about what they still need to know.
- Teachers use consistent criteria for reading and writing, as well as common language and techniques to develop student skills.
- Teachers work collaboratively within the department, with the teacher-librarian, support staff, counselors and administrators to provide the best program for each student.
- Teachers use a variety of assessment techniques for learning, as learning, and of learning to support students' abilities to meet the prescribed learning outcomes.

In English students who fully meet expectations are able to:

- **Understand** and process various forms of oral, written and multi-media forms of communication (develop reading, listening and viewing skills)
- **Express** themselves clearly, convincingly and eloquently (develop reading, speaking and representing skills, including correctly applying the conventions of language)
- **Think and respond critically** about the communication of fact and fiction, and about various persuasive techniques.
- **Think reflectively** about texts, tasks, and their own learning
- **Explore** reading and writing as ways of knowing, of developing personal values and of understanding themselves and their society.