



*Department of Teaching & Learning*  
*Parent/Student Course Information*

***INDEPENDENT READING SKILLS FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS***  
***(LA1128)***

*Counselors are available to assist parents and students with course selections and career planning. Parents may arrange to meet with the counselor by calling the school's guidance department.*

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Students are recommended for placement in this course based on multiple criteria including results from prior Standards of Learning assessments, performance in English or Reading courses, and other standardized testing. This course uses differentiated and direct instruction, adaptive and instructional software, high-interest literature, and focuses on comprehension, reading, writing, and vocabulary skills. Students receive instruction in the use of word recognition and context to build vocabulary; conventions of print and non-print to increase understanding and comprehension of text; and strategic reading to increase comprehension and enhance learning and retention. In response to both guided and independent reading, students will engage in frequent writing activities. Independent fiction and non-fiction reading will be used to build fluency, expand vocabulary, and increase the enjoyment of reading. Students may enroll in this class for multiple semesters. At this grade level, students take a Reading Test for the English Standards of Learning.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

**The student will develop an awareness of the conventions of print and non-print text.**

- Develop awareness that print and non-print text carry meaning.
- Analyze text features or structural elements (i.e., paragraph structure, section and chapter titles, headings, sub-headings, annotations, font changes, and appendices) to gain meaning from textbooks.
- Interpret visual graphics effectively including graphs, charts, cartoons, tables, diagrams and illustrations.
- Analyze content area texts using different study systems (i.e., SQ3R, SQRC, QAR).
- Learn and apply study skills including note taking, memory development and time management.
- Explore and determine the usefulness of print and non-print reference sources.
- Learn terms appropriate for Internet searches.
- Locate and evaluate information on the Internet.

**The student will develop appropriate word recognition skills (i.e. decoding, recognizing prefixes, suffixes, and root words, recognizing words by sight, and using context to lead to word recognition).**

- Learn and use specific roots and affixes to increase word recognition and meaning.
- Learn, recognize, and use context clues.
- Use a dictionary to confirm the meaning of words.

**The student will develop and apply strategies to increase reading comprehension.**

- Use pre-reading, during-reading, and post-reading strategies to develop comprehension.
- Learn and apply the strategies independent readers employ successfully when reading expository and narrative text such as clarifying, comparing and contrasting, connecting to prior experience, inferencing, predicting, questioning text, recognizing author's purpose, seeing causal relationships, summarizing, and visualizing.

**The student will respond to text through writing and discussion to express opinions and ideas that deepen understanding.**

- Write in response to text.
- Adapt to a variety of roles appropriate for literary discussion.
- Participate in response to text.

**The students will read independently for enjoyment and information.**

- Choose from a variety of leveled texts for independent reading.
- Participate in sustained silent reading.
- Participate and prepare book talks or other presentations.
- Analyze and evaluate information found in newspapers, magazines, and journals.
- Read to increase reading rate and accuracy.

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Produced by the Department of Media and Communications for the Department of Teaching and Learning.  
For further information, please call (757) 263-1070.

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Alternative formats of this publication which may include taped, Braille, or large print materials are available upon request for individuals with disabilities. Call or write The Department of Teaching and Learning, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, 2512 George Mason Drive, P.O. Box 6038, Virginia Beach, VA 23456-0038. Telephone 263-1070 (voice); fax 263-1424; 263-1240 (TDD) or email her at [Cameron.Vadersen@vbschools.com](mailto:Cameron.Vadersen@vbschools.com).

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August 2018