

Holmes Middle School

SBDM Council Policy

Literacy Policy

Rationale

The Holmes Middle School Literacy Policy is founded upon the understanding that literacy is not simply a commonality among all of the courses at Holmes Middle School; rather, it is *the* skill set that connects all disciplines. The faculty and staff at Holmes Middle School are united by the belief that reading, writing, speaking, and listening must be cultivated in a variety of settings in order to effectively prepare students to excel academically and personally. This policy is our promise to enact that belief in every aspect of our school culture.

Aims

As a faculty and staff, we are committed to the following:

- Students will read, comprehend, and analyze a variety of grade-level appropriate imaginative, technical, and authentic texts.
- Students will write for a variety of audiences and purposes and will plan, draft, revise, and publish pieces in a range of publications.
- Students will speak appropriately in both formal and informal settings.
- Students will listen effectively and respond appropriately to information as it is provided.
- Students will take pleasure in and recognize the importance of reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Outcomes

To measure the effectiveness of our aims, the faculty and staff of Holmes Middle School commit to the following outcomes:

- Each student will submit for authentic publication (in local, state, or national competitions or publications) at least two pieces per school year.
- Each student will submit to their portfolio at least 5 documents for Writing to Learn and 5 documents for Writing to Demonstrate Learning.
- Each student will demonstrate growth by increasing their reading score on external reading and writing assessments.

Implementation

Each teacher at Holmes Middle School is responsible for implementing the following:

- Each class will have students complete documents required by the school's writing policy.
- Monthly, every class will provide at least two opportunities for students to read, comprehend, and analyze authentic texts within the class. Authentic texts may include newspaper and magazine articles, websites, technical writing, and imaginative literature.
- Each class will include at least one speaking opportunity, either as a class presentation, a community speaking engagement, or a presentation to another class or group within the school.