Middlebury Community Schools
Language Arts Philosophy
Winter, 2013

An effective Language Arts program should support all students in:

- Developing a positive attitude toward language and learning by providing opportunities for choice.
- Learning to select and apply effective strategies for reading for meaning for a variety of purposes in a variety of genres including non-standard text-types.
- Comprehending developmentally appropriate materials using a variety of genres and text structures including charts, graphs, and instruction manuals.
- Writing to communicate effectively for different purposes and audiences.
- Building on and using prior knowledge along with content-area information to make critical judgments and to support theories that are based on evidence in the text.
- Communicating orally with people of all ages.
- Responding to the interrelatedness of language, literature, and culture.
- Developing digital literacy skills to determine the appropriate tools needed to seek information or to communicate effectively with an audience.
- Developing digital literacy skills to gather, process, and apply information to the building of theories, and effectively communicate critical thinking to a variety of audiences.
- Developing reflective practices for measuring personal growth as a reader or writer
- Developing skills for self-monitoring in reading comprehension and writing to recognize when meaning breaks down.

An effective Language Arts program should support all teachers in:

- Providing a consistent curriculum framework
- Providing consistent staff development aligned with the district curriculum framework as well as student needs
- Developing and utilizing a variety of assessments to measure student growth and to guide instructional decisions.
- Providing developmentally appropriate materials to scaffold student growth.
- Providing a core program aligned with Common Core State Standards, to be used as a supplement to a Balanced Literacy Framework, which includes guided reading and writing workshop.