

## Integration of the Language Arts into All Areas of the Curriculum

There is widespread concern about how the "language arts"--reading, writing, speaking, the comprehension of speech, and possibly the appreciation of literature--should be integrated in the school curriculum . . . The question is not how the language arts should be brought together in the learner's mind, but why they should ever be separated (NCTE, 1983).

Since effective communication skills are a key to success in life, they need to be emphasized in **all** areas of the curriculum with high standards expected in **all** classes. **Every teacher is a language arts teacher. Every** teacher should challenge students to construct meaning from a variety of print and non-print texts, interpreting, analyzing, and synthesizing data. **Every** teacher should expect students to regularly produce cohesive persuasive, analytical and expository essays that contain well-constructed sentences and adhere to standard grammar and punctuation rules. **Every** teacher should encourage students to verbalize cohesive thoughts which actively utilize a developing vocabulary. We thereby advocate that **all** teachers:

- become familiar with all subject guidelines--those for classes they teach and those for classes they do not
- participate in cooperative and meaningful articulation with colleagues with the goal of integrating the curriculum
- engage students in regular meaningful oral discussion
- require articulate oral presentations from their students
- engage students in activities that hone active listening skills
- require students to learn and actively use a constantly expanding subject-specific vocabulary
- assign regular and varied reading--both textbook and non-textbook--calculated to challenge student thinking
- demonstrate a basic understanding of process writing
- regularly assign and evaluate a variety of formal and informal writing
- regularly assign writing that requires the use of higher order thinking skills
- require students to gather and use information from a variety of technological and informational resources

***If we work together, our students will attain a level of literacy that will help them become successful, contributing members of society.***