

# LANGUAGE ARTS

The term language arts is given to the broad area that includes the study of the communication skills and their application: reading, writing, speaking, spelling, listening, and the study of literature and composition. The major emphasis is on skill development

in the earlier grades. As the child becomes proficient in the use of the communication skills, he spends more time in the reading and discussion of literature in its various forms and in the writing of compositions.

## Curriculum

### Elementary:

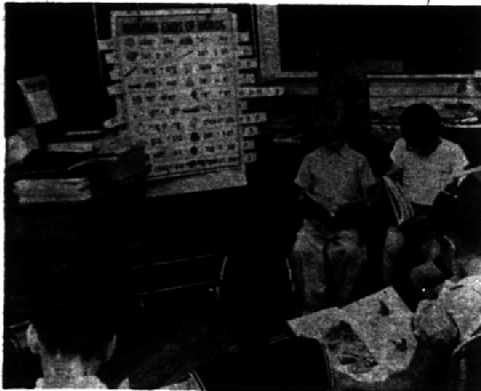
Language (oral and written)  
Spelling  
Penmanship  
Reading

### Secondary:

English, Grades 7, 8 and 9  
Introduction to Representative Literature Forms and Compositions (Regular and Honors Sections).  
American Literature and Composition (Regular and Honors Sections).  
Modern Literature and Practical Writing  
English Literature and Composition (Regular and Honors Sections).  
Speech, Dramatics, Debate.



Courses in radio speech use electronic equipment as the vehicle for motivating students to do their best. The preparation of scripts and their delivery before the microphone utilize many of the skills that come from the study of the language arts.



Phonetics are an important part of reading. These children are working on a visual-auditory discrimination chart with accompanying books to improve their phonetic skills. Phonetic skill building is an integral part of the basic reading program.

## Improvements

### 1960-61:

Honors course in American Literature and Composition added.  
Revision of composition guides for teaching, Grades 7-12.

### 1961-62:

Honors sections added in grades 10 and 12 completing 3-year honors sequence.  
Revision of literature course of study for grades 7-12.  
Modern Literature and Practical Writing

added to curriculum for the non-college-bound student.  
Remedial reading English sections added at the senior high school level.  
English department chairmen appointed in all secondary schools.  
Reading consultant employed for elementary schools.  
Studies in kindergarten reading readiness.  
Publication of elementary handwriting manual.

## Needs

Review of basic text adoptions in elementary reading and spelling.  
Study of basic speech requirement for graduation from high school.  
Expanded literature program for elementary schools.  
Additional elementary reading consultants.

# FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The goal of the Birmingham Schools is the strengthening of the offerings in foreign language during the next 3 years to provide a continuous program from the elementary grades through high school. The teachers of the foreign lan-

guage departments recognize their responsibility for teaching students to read, write, and speak the language they choose. Stress is being placed upon the development of conversational fluency.

## Curriculum

French, grades 8-12  
German, grades 10-12

Latin, grades 8-12  
Spanish, grades 8-12



Little remains to remind one of the "little red school house" in a classroom where a language laboratory is installed.



Students of Latin find their studies offer frequent opportunities for dramatic expression and the use of art forms.

## Improvements

### 1960-61:

Two foreign language laboratories with 30-pupil stations installed in the Ernest W. Seaholm and the Wylie E. Groves High Schools.

### 1961-62:

Installation of 30-pupil station foreign language laboratories at Derby and Barnum Junior High Schools.  
Courses in French, Latin and Spanish offered in the eighth grades in all junior high schools.  
Acquisition of extensive holdings in foreign language tapes for use in the development of conversational fluency.  
Appointment of foreign language department chairmen.

## Needs

An elementary foreign language program.  
Extension of the junior high school language offerings to include the seventh grade.  
The addition of Russian at the senior high school level.