8th Grade ELA
Building a Learning Community

Time Frame: 2 weeks	Unit Title: Introduction Unit	Course Name: 8th Grade Language Arts

Stage 1: Desired Results

Established Goal(s)	Transfer

Established Goal(s)

Department Competencies Addressed:
Students will practice the ability to…
1. **Reading Literature (fiction & non-fiction):** closely read a literary text, infer the author's intent and/or the text's theme, and cite textual evidence to support their understanding.
6. **Speaking & Listening:** communicate effectively and respectfully using viewing, listening, and speaking skills for a range of purposes and audiences.

Standards Addressed:
Students will practice the ability to…
- Determine a theme or central idea of a text. (CCSS.RL.8.2)
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (CCSS.W.8.4)
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. (CCSS.W.8.9)
- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. (CCSS.SL.8.1)
- Follow rules for collegial discussions and decision-making, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed. (CCSS.SL.8.1B)

Habits of Mind/Professionalism:
Students will practice the ability to…
- Report to class on time
- Begin work without prompting
- Use class time productively
- Bring required materials to class
- Use classroom/supplies respectfully
- Participate in class discussions

Transfer

Students will be able to independently use their learning to…
- Identify important routines, expectations, and supports in a new setting
- Establish connections with those around them

Meaning

Understandings
Students will understand that…
- Being intentional about building a community helps everyone succeed, in any setting.
- When starting something new (job, class, etc), it is important to take time to establish routines, expectations, and attitudes.

Essential Questions
- What are the most important aspects of a community, particularly an educational community?
- Why is it important to understand expectations in specific settings?
- How do routines help us?
- How can we take action on our own to use resources around us to find support and information?
- How can we support one another?

Acquisition

Students will know…
- Expectations in the classroom
- Classroom routines
- Class structure
- Resources available in the classroom
- The following terms:
  - Bell Ringer
  - Brain Break
  - Countdown
  - Handle with Care Card
  - No Name Land
  - Handouts
  - LA Folder
  - Calming Kit
  - Language Arts Calendar

Students will be able to…
- Define important parts of an educational community
- Explain expectations in the classroom
- Identify ideas on which we will focus this year
- Demonstrate support for each other in various ways
- Come to class prepared
- Gather all in-class materials without reminders
- Begin the Bell Ringer independently
- Know where to find important classroom information