

Grade 3 English Language Arts Instructional Overview

The core curriculum is designed around four focus strands: communication and multimodal literacies, reading, writing, and research.

Students will use communication skills to participate in classroom discussions, work respectfully with others in a variety of situations, and develop presentations using multimodal tools. Students will develop specific skills for organizing, expressing, and presenting ideas or information. Teachers will encourage the development of interpersonal skills that are foundational to effective communication and collaboration.

The reading strand's instructional emphasis is on reading to learn and reading for enjoyment. Students will read a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts, which relate to all content areas and personal interests. Students will continue to develop strategic reading skills, such as word analysis and construction of meaning from text. Students will continue to use comprehension strategies to compare and contrast story elements and differentiate between fiction and nonfiction. Teachers will encourage the development of reading skills that are foundational to effective comprehension and critical thinking. Students will take the Grade 3 Reading SOL test.

In the writing strand students will continue to develop reading and writing together. Students will use the writing process to plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish writing in a variety of forms for different purposes and audiences. Student writing will become more complex, and students will learn to select details to elaborate on the main idea of a paragraph. Students will also create narrative stories with a hook, beginning, middle, and end. They will use written communication skills across content areas. Students will also write legibly in cursive.

Students will continue to use the research process to construct questions and gather and organize information about a topic. Students will identify and use appropriate resources to complete a research product. Students will understand plagiarism and will report information using their own words. Teachers will encourage the development of research skills that are foundational to effective critical thinking and responsible use of information.

Grade 4 English Language Arts Instructional Overview

The core curriculum is designed around four focus strands: communication and multimodal literacies, reading, writing, and research.

Students will continue to increase communication and collaboration skills by working in diverse teams. To be contributing participants in discussions, students will apply skills to effectively communicate ideas and opinions, while showing value for others' contributions. Students will deliver interactive, multimodal presentations and begin to examine media messages.

In the reading strand there is an increased emphasis on reading comprehension by comparing fiction and nonfiction texts, identifying cause-and-effect relationships, and differentiating between fact and opinion. Students will expand vocabulary using knowledge of roots, affixes, synonyms, antonyms, and homophones. Teachers will encourage the development of reading skills that are foundational to effective comprehension and critical thinking. Students will take the Grade 4 Reading SOL test.

Students will develop and build their reading and writing skills together. Students will use the writing process to plan, draft, revise, and edit writing in a variety of forms to include narrative, descriptive, opinion, and expository. They will select and narrow a topic, develop a plan for writing, and organize information into several paragraphs with a central idea and supporting details. The instructional focus will include an emphasis on composing and written expression. Revising writing for clarity and editing for usage and mechanics will continue to be important at this grade level.

Students will demonstrate comprehension of the research process by evaluating the relevance and reliability of information collected to create a research product. Additionally, students will integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism. Teachers will encourage the development of research skills that are foundational to effective critical thinking and responsible use of information.

Grade 5 English Language Arts Instructional Overview

The core curriculum is designed around four focus strands: communication and multimodal literacies, reading, writing, and research.

Students will demonstrate the ability to collaborate with diverse teams by working respectfully with others, using active listening skills, and showing value for individual contributions. Students will create and deliver interactive multimodal presentations. Students will compare and contrast a variety of techniques used in media messaging. Teachers will encourage the development of effective interpersonal communication and collaboration skills.

In the reading strand students will continue to expand vocabulary using knowledge of roots, affixes, synonyms, antonyms, and homophones. In fifth grade, there is an emphasis on reading comprehension by comparing fiction and nonfiction texts. In fiction texts, students will explain plot development and conflict resolution and differentiate between first and third person points of view. Fifth grade instruction emphasizes nonfiction reading; students will identify authors' organizational patterns and use texts to support opinions and conclusions. Teachers will encourage the development of reading skills that are foundational to effective comprehension and critical thinking. Students will take the Grade 5 Reading SOL test.

Students will continue to develop as readers and writers as they write in a variety of forms including narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive. Students will write multiparagraph compositions including evidence to inform or persuade an audience. Precise and descriptive vocabulary and varied sentence structure will become important tools for creating tone and voice within a text. Students will be expected to have greater control over the conventions of writing.

Students will demonstrate comprehension of the research process by evaluating the relevance, reliability, and credibility of information collected. Students will learn to evaluate and synthesize information to use in their oral, visual, written, or multimodal research product. Students will understand there are consequences of plagiarism. Teachers will encourage the development of research skills that are foundational to effective critical thinking and responsible use of information.