



WWPS Promise Standards K-12 Language Arts

In Walla Walla Public Schools, we operate in an aligned and coherent system. This means students will receive access to the same promise standards no matter which school they attend. During the summer of 2019, K-12 teachers came together to identify 8-12 promise standards per grade level to ensure consistency across schools, and to ensure all students progress to the next level with the same foundation of skills. This document summarizes the standards for which all students will receive instruction, and additional support to achieve proficiency. The color coding indicates similar domains across grade levels to see how skills progress.

Foundational Skills Reading: Literature Reading: Informational Text Writing Language Speaking and Listening

Kindergarten

- Read emergent-reader texts with purpose and understanding.
- Demonstrate an understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds (phonemes).
- Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
- Demonstrate understanding of the organization of basic features of print.
- Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events, tell about the events in the order in which they occurred, and provide a reaction to what happened.
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
- Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts.
- Confirm understanding of a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media by asking and answering questions about key details and requesting clarification if something is not understood.

First Grade

- Orally produce single-syllable words by blending sounds (phonemes), including consonant blends.
- Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
- Read grade-level text orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression on successive readings.
- Write opinion pieces in which they introduce the topic or name the book they are writing about, state an opinion, supply a reason for the opinion, and provide some sense of closure.
- Capitalize dates and names of people.
- Use end punctuation for sentences.
- Spell untaught words phonetically, drawing on phonemic awareness and spelling conventions.
- Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
- Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.
- Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.
- Produce complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation.

Second Grade

- Know and apply grade level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
- Read grade-level text orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression on successive readings.
- Ask and answer such questions as who, what, when, where, why and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
- Describe the overall structure of a story including describing how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the action.
- Explain how specific images contribute to and clarify a text.
- Compare and contrast the most important points presented by two texts on the same topic.
- Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section.
- Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
- Produce, expand, and rearrange complete simple and compound sentences.
- Capitalize holidays, product names, and geographic names. Use an apostrophe to form contractions and frequently occurring possessives.
- Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

Third Grade

- Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
- Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
- Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.
- Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.
- Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
- Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
- Determine the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
- Capitalize appropriate words in titles.
- Determine the main ideas and supporting details of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

Fourth Grade

- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
- Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.
- Compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are narrated, including the difference between first-and third-person narrations.
- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.
- Compare and contrast a firsthand and secondhand account of the same event or topic; describe the differences in focus and the information provided.
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
- Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; take notes and categorize information, and provide a list of sources.
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English by using commas and quotation marks to mark direct speech and quotations from a text when writing.
- Use context (eg. definition, examples, or restatements in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.

Fifth Grade

- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.
- Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.
- Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text. (Literary)
- Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text. (Informational)
- Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.
- Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text based on specific information in the text.
- Integrate information from several texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.
- Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.
- With some guidance and support from adults, use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of two pages in a single sitting.
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. *This includes literary texts, is focused on writing, includes research, and can be based on only one text.
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

Sixth Grade

- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details; provide a summary of the text.
- Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds as well as how the characters respond or change.
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings.
- Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.
- When writing an argument, support claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
- In informative writing introduce a topic; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using appropriate organization strategies; include formatting graphics, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
- In narrative writing use techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
- Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources
- Interpret information presented in diverse media and formats and explain how it contributes to a topic, text, or issue under study.

Seventh Grade

- Determine a theme or central idea of a text; provide an objective summary of the text.
- Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact.
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text.
- Analyze how an author develops and contrasts the points of view of different characters or narrators in a text.
- Determine two or more central ideas in a text; provide an objective summary of the text.
- When writing arguments, introduce claim(s), acknowledge alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.
- In informative writing, introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies, including formatting, graphics, and multimedia when useful.
- In informative writing develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
- With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 7 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

Eighth Grade

- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.
- Analyze how particular lines of dialogue or incidents in a story or drama propel the action, reveal aspects of a character, or provoke a decision.
- Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text; provide an objective summary of the text.
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text.
- Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced.
- Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence
- When writing an argument, establish and maintain a formal style.
- Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
- When writing to inform establish and maintain a formal style.
- Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.
- When writing a narrative, use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence, signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another, and show the relationships among experiences and events.
- When writing a narrative use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.
- Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Ninth Grade

- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development over the course of the text.
- Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text.
- Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, provide an objective summary of the text.
- Analyze how the author unfolds an analysis or series of ideas or events.
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
- Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions.
- Present information, findings, and supporting evidence clearly, concisely, and logically such that listeners can follow.
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English.
- Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases.

Tenth Grade

- Determine a theme or central idea of a text and analyze in detail its development.
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings.
- Analyze in detail how an author's ideas or claims are developed and refined.
- Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how an author uses rhetoric.
- Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text; identify false statements and fallacious reasoning.
- Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
- Gather, assess the usefulness of and integrate relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources.
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
- Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, identifying any fallacious reasoning or exaggerated or distorted evidence.

Eleventh Grade

- Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text
- Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text contribute to its overall structure and meaning
- Determine two or more central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text
- Analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of the structure an author uses in his or her exposition or argument
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas, concepts, and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
- Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question or solve a problem.
- Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, assessing the stance, premises, links among ideas, word choice, points of emphasis, and tone used.
- Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating a command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

Twelfth Grade

- Analyze the impact of the author's choices.
- Analyze a case in which grasping a point of view requires distinguishing what is directly stated in a text from what is really meant.
- Analyze a complex set of ideas or sequence of events and explain how they develop over the course of the text.
- Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text
- Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats.
- Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
- Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
- Gather and assess relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation.
- Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media
- Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
- Acquire and use accurately general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.