

# Language Arts Curriculum

(Reading, Writing & Grammar, Spelling, and Listening)

(adopted 2015-2016)

## Philosophy Statement

Effective communication in the language arts, which includes reading, writing, grammar, spelling, and listening, is essential in everyday life. Most importantly it helps us grow in the knowledge of God's saving Word with which the Holy Spirit gives and sustains faith. Skills in the language arts help us gain knowledge and insight of the world which God has given us, and allows us to communicate better with our fellowmen.

Students progress through well-planned teacher-led language lessons which include memorization, recitation, discussion, and student practice in real life context.

## Course Introduction

A key component for our first grade language arts curriculum is the Write Source. This series is all encompassing on writing skills, sentence structure, grammar identification and usage, and genres of writing. It offers many resources that are utilized in the classroom including the textbook, skillsbook, daily language workouts, and an interactive white board program. Handwriting is not only emphasized in the Write Source, but also in the Super Kids reading program. Students also practice handwriting through a series called *100 Write and Learn Sight Word Practice*. There are also iPad apps that are used to reinforce concepts of learning in the language arts area.

## Exit Goals for Graduation from St. Paul's

Upon graduation and in accordance with their God-given abilities, St. Paul's students will...

### Speaking and Listening

1. Actively engage in collaborative discussions by balancing talking with listening
2. Speak with purposely with confidence
3. Apply grammatical knowledge in oral speaking
4. Use age appropriate vocabulary when speaking

### Word and World Knowledge

1. Demonstrate broad-based knowledge of the appropriate 8<sup>th</sup> grade vocabulary with 90-95% proficiency
2. Understand word relationships, word origins, and root awareness
3. Apply things experienced in life and learned in the classroom to text and other life experiences

### Reading

1. Read for purpose and understanding at a fluency of 150-160 correct words per minute observing punctuation and expression
2. Read and understand at or above grade level literature and informational texts using comprehension strategies to decipher meaning
3. Identify and summarize the main ideas in fiction and nonfiction text
4. Understand figurative language in text

## Writing

1. Cite appropriate textual evidence when writing and speaking
2. Write clear and organized persuasive, expository, and narrative texts using the writing process
3. Gather appropriate information from multiple sources to determine validity and reliability of sources while conducting research
4. Apply grammatical correctness in writing
5. Make use of figurative language in writing
6. Apply varying sentence structures (simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex) in writing

## Grammar

1. Identify the eight parts of speech in sentence structure including their own writing
2. Compose grammatically correct sentences including proper mechanics
3. Use correct English grammar and usage in writing

## Spelling

1. Apply spelling strategies and phonics rules to successfully spell 8<sup>th</sup> grade vocabulary words with at least 90% accuracy

# Grade Level Measurable Objectives for Kindergarten

## DECODING

- Recognize by sight all letters of the alphabet.
- Produce all consonant sounds and short vowel sounds.
- Sound out each letter in simple words and blend them to read the word.

## WORD KNOWLEDGE

- Use a broad-based knowledge of grade level appropriate vocabulary to read with purpose and understanding, (able to comprehend at least 90% of words in a Kindergarten level text).
- Recognize on sight rhyming word families and sight/memory words taught during the school year.
- Use pictures in stories to help them figure out unknown words.
- Use words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading and being read to, and responding to texts.
- Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., note places at school that are colorful).

## WORLD KNOWLEDGE

- Apply things they have seen and done in the classroom and outside and relate them to the text as well as take the vocabulary and apply those words to their lives by speaking and writing.
- Apply concepts learned in other subjects (social studies and science) to their reading, writing, and listening comprehension.

## **FLUENCY**

- Read emergent reader texts with purpose and understanding.
- Obey punctuation and use expression while reading.

## **COMPREHENSION (Oral and Skills)**

- Demonstrate oral comprehension through texts and read aloud discussions.
- Retell a story.
- Understand story elements such as setting, characters, sequence, events, and problem solving.
- Remember, understand, and relate the story to their own personal experiences.

## **GRAMMAR**

- Use frequently occurring nouns and verbs correctly.
- Form regular plural nouns by adding -s and -es
- Identify the three types of sentences: statement, question, exclamation and the punctuation associated with each type.
- Understand and use question words (interrogatives) (e.g., who, what, where, when, why, and how).
- Use the most frequently occurring prepositions (e.g., to, from, in, out, on, off, for, of, by, with).
- Applying the correct usage of a capital letter at the beginning of the sentence, correct use of the three types of punctuation, and use spaces between words when writing.

## **WRITING**

- Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to express themselves appropriately on various topics.
- Write a simple sentence.
- Will demonstrate concepts of print such as left to right, top to bottom progression and understand that words are separated by spaces in print.
- Legibly form all capital and lowercase letters of the alphabet.

## **SPELLING**

- Add or substitute individual sounds (phonemes) in simple, one-syllable words to make new words ( CVC).
- Demonstrate basic knowledge of one-to-one letter-sound correspondences by producing the primary sound or many of the most frequent sounds for each consonant.
- Spell simple words phonetically, drawing on knowledge of sound-letter relationships.

## **LISTENING AND SPEAKING**

- 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.
- Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., listening to others and taking turns speaking about the topics and texts under discussion).
- Continue a conversation through multiple exchanges.
- Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly.
- Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about kindergarten topics and texts with peers and adults in small and larger groups.
- Describe familiar people, places, things, and events and, with prompting and support, provide additional detail.
- Be able to follow oral single step directions.

## **Grade Level Measurable Objectives for First Grade**

### **DECODING**

- Decode words with long and short vowel patterns
- Decode words with consonant clusters and digraphs
- Decode words with silent letters
- Decode words with common syllables (prefixes and suffixes)
- Decode words with contractions
- Decode words with compound words

### **WORD KNOWLEDGE**

- Use a broad-based knowledge of appropriate grade level vocabulary (know 90 - 95 % of the words in the text), and use that knowledge to read with purpose and understanding
- Use context to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words
- Connect previously learned words to a new context
- Apply knowledge of how words relate to each other (synonyms, antonyms, homophones, homonyms, and multi-meaning words)

### **WORLD KNOWLEDGE**

- Apply Classroom and outside experiences to relatable texts
- Apply 2<sup>nd</sup> grade vocabulary to their lives through speaking and writing
- Use concepts learned in other subject areas and apply to their reading, writing, and listening comprehension

### **FLUENCY**

- Read at a rate of 80-90 words a minute while obeying punctuation marks and reading with expression

## **COMPREHENSION (Oral and Skills)**

- Expand oral comprehension through teacher read-alouds and discussion
- Apply reading strategies (story elements, cause & effect, sequence, problem solving, summarizing, and question & answer) to remember and understand story events in both oral and independent reading

## **GRAMMAR**

- Identify nouns, pronouns, verbs, and adjectives
- Add common endings to base words (s, es, ed, ing)
- Use punctuation and capitalization in sentences
- Identify different types of sentences (telling, asking, and exclamatory)

## **WRITING**

- Use the steps of the writing process (prewrite, write, revise, edit, publish)
- Write complete sentences
- Write logical paragraphs
- Write 3 paragraph essays (descriptive, narrative, expository, persuasive, research)
- Write legible lower and uppercase cursive letters

## **SPELLING**

- Spell 90% of common 2<sup>nd</sup> grade sight words by following phonics rules for words that follow certain patterns (VCe, VCCV, consonant clusters, vowel pairs, digraphs, r-controlled vowels, -ed, -ing, -s, -es)
- Spell basic compound words and contractions, number and color words and basic homophones

## **LISTENING AND SPEAKING**

- Demonstrate active, attentive listening
  - Look at the speaker
  - Listen for key words
  - Ask questions
  - Write down the main ideas
  - Understand the purpose for listening
- Demonstrate how to follow oral, multi-step directions correctly
- Demonstrate how to answer oral questions correctly and how to participate in class discussions appropriately

# **Grade Level Measurable Objectives for Second Grade**

## **DECODING**

- Decode words with long and short vowel patterns
- Decode words with consonant clusters and digraphs
- Decode words with silent letters
- Decode words with common syllables (prefixes and suffixes)
- Decode words with contractions
- Decode words with compound words

## **WORD KNOWLEDGE**

- Use a broad-based knowledge of appropriate grade level vocabulary (know 90 - 95 % of the words in the text), and use that knowledge to read with purpose and understanding
- Use context to determine the meaning of unfamiliar words
- Connect previously learned words to a new context
- Apply knowledge of how words relate to each other (synonyms, antonyms, homophones, homonyms, and multi-meaning words)

## **WORLD KNOWLEDGE**

- Apply Classroom and outside experiences to relatable texts
- Apply 2<sup>nd</sup> grade vocabulary to their lives through speaking and writing
- Use concepts learned in other subject areas and apply to their reading, writing, and listening comprehension

## **FLUENCY**

- Read at a rate of 80-90 words a minute while obeying punctuation marks and reading with expression

## **COMPREHENSION (Oral and Skills)**

- Expand oral comprehension through teacher read-alouds and discussion
- Apply reading strategies (story elements, cause & effect, sequence, problem solving, summarizing, and question & answer) to remember and understand story events in both oral and independent reading

## **GRAMMAR**

- Identify nouns, pronouns, verbs, and adjectives
- Add common endings to base words (s, es, ed, ing)
- Use punctuation and capitalization in sentences
- Identify different types of sentences (telling, asking, and exclamatory)

## **WRITING**

- Use the steps of the writing process (prewrite, write, revise, edit, publish)

- Write complete sentences
- Write logical paragraphs
- Write 3 paragraph essays (descriptive, narrative, expository, persuasive, research)
- Write legible lower and uppercase cursive letters

## **SPELLING**

- Spell 90% of common 2<sup>nd</sup> grade sight words by following phonics rules for words that follow certain patterns (VCe, VCCV, consonant clusters, vowel pairs, digraphs, r-controlled vowels, -ed, -ing, -s, -es)
- Spell basic compound words and contractions, number and color words and basic homophones

## **LISTENING AND SPEAKING**

- Demonstrate active, attentive listening
  - Look at the speaker
  - Listen for key words
  - Ask questions
  - Write down the main ideas
  - Understand the purpose for listening
- Demonstrate how to follow oral, multi-step directions correctly
- Demonstrate how to answer oral questions correctly and how to participate in class discussions appropriately

# **Grade Level Measurable Objectives for Third Grade**

## **DECODING**

- Decode by using knowledge of vowel sounds, consonant blends, and clusters to sound out words on their own.
- Figure out unknown words through teacher facilitated review of decoding of the syllables.

## **WORD KNOWLEDGE**

- Use context clues to determine the meanings of unknown words.
- Use broad based knowledge of appropriate fourth grade vocabulary.
- Understand that some words have more than one meaning, and use context to determine the proper meaning.
- Read and comprehend a minimum of 90-95% of fourth grade written text.
- Use dictionaries to help them figure out meanings of unknown words.
- Use knowledge of how words relate to each other to identify proper synonyms, antonyms, homophones, homonyms, and multi-meaning words.

## **WORLD KNOWLEDGE**

- Relate things they have seen or done in the classroom and outside of it to relatable texts.
- Take the 3-4 vocabulary and apply those words to their lives through speaking and writing.
- Apply concepts learned in other subject areas to help comprehend texts.

## **FLUENCY**

- Read a fourth grade text fluently by reading at 120-140 words per minute
- Read with expression and obey punctuation while reading

## **COMPREHENSION (Oral and Skills)**

- Build comprehension through classroom read alouds, discussion, and oral and independent reading.
- Show oral and written comprehension of 4<sup>th</sup> grade text
- Use these reading strategies: make inferences, generalizations, summarize, identify cause and effect, problem and solution, sequence of events, introduction to basic figurative language, and story elements, to comprehend text.
- Recall, apply, and analyze text using fluency, word knowledge, world knowledge

## **GRAMMAR**

- Identify 6 parts of speech (noun, verb, adjective, adverb, pronouns, and conjunctions) but are introduced to all eight
- Identify different types of sentences (Declarative, Interrogative, Exclamatory, Imperative)
- Use proper subject - verb agreement

## **WRITING**

- Write various 4-5 paragraph essays (Descriptive, Narrative, Expository, Persuasive, Responsive) as well as write a two page research paper.
- Write in complete paragraphs with topic sentences
- Consistently write in complete sentences (Capital letter, endmark, subject, verb, makes sense)
- Summarize different texts
- Use the writing process to improve on their writing
- Write fluently in cursive or print, uppercase and lowercase.

## **SPELLING**

- Spell 90% of common fourth grade spelling words
- Use various common spelling strategies, phonics rules, and pattern
- Learn irregular plurals, comparative and superlatives, homophones, common prefixes and suffixes, possessives, and silent consonants

## **LISTENING AND SPEAKING**

- Know purpose for listening
- Take Notes
  - Sit still
  - Look at speaker
  - Follow a variety of step-by-step directions independently
- Ask questions related to topic being discussed
- Answer questions clearly and relative to the topic

## **Grade Level Measurable Objectives for Fourth Grade**

### **DECODING**

- Decode by using knowledge of vowel sounds, consonant blends, and clusters to sound out words on their own.
- Figure out unknown words through teacher facilitated review of decoding of the syllables.

### **WORD KNOWLEDGE**

- Use context clues to determine the meanings of unknown words.
- Use broad based knowledge of appropriate fourth grade vocabulary.
- Understand that some words have more than one meaning, and use context to determine the proper meaning.
- Read and comprehend a minimum of 90-95% of fourth grade written text.
- Use dictionaries to help them figure out meanings of unknown words.
- Use knowledge of how words relate to each other to identify proper synonyms, antonyms, homophones, homonyms, and multi-meaning words.

### **WORLD KNOWLEDGE**

- Relate things they have seen or done in the classroom and outside of it to relatable texts.
- Take the 3-4 vocabulary and apply those words to their lives through speaking and writing.
- Apply concepts learned in other subject areas to help comprehend texts.

### **FLUENCY**

- Read a fourth grade text fluently by reading at 120-140 words per minute
- Read with expression and obey punctuation while reading

### **COMPREHENSION (Oral and Skills)**

- Build comprehension through classroom read alouds, discussion, and oral and independent reading.

- Show oral and written comprehension of 4<sup>th</sup> grade text
- Use these reading strategies: make inferences, generalizations, summarize, identify cause and effect, problem and solution, sequence of events, introduction to basic figurative language, and story elements, to comprehend text.
- Recall, apply, and analyze text using fluency, word knowledge, world knowledge

## **GRAMMAR**

- Identify 6 parts of speech (noun, verb, adjective, adverb, pronouns, and conjunctions) but are introduced to all eight
- Identify different types of sentences (Declarative, Interrogative, Exclamatory, Imperative)
- Use proper subject - verb agreement

## **WRITING**

- Write various 4-5 paragraph essays (Descriptive, Narrative, Expository, Persuasive, Responsive) as well as write a two page research paper.
- Write in complete paragraphs with topic sentences
- Consistently write in complete sentences (Capital letter, endmark, subject, verb, makes sense)
- Summarize different texts
- Use the writing process to improve on their writing
- Write fluently in cursive or print, uppercase and lowercase.

## **SPELLING**

- Spell 90% of common fourth grade spelling words
- Use various common spelling strategies, phonics rules, and pattern
- Learn irregular plurals, comparative and superlatives, homophones, common prefixes and suffixes, possessives, and silent consonants

## **LISTENING AND SPEAKING**

- Know purpose for listening
- Take Notes
  - Sit still
  - Look at speaker
  - Follow a variety of step-by-step directions independently
- Ask questions related to topic being discussed
- Answer questions clearly and relative to the topic

# **Grade Level Measurable Objectives for Fifth and Sixth Grade**

## **WORD KNOWLEDGE**

- Make use of appropriate 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade vocabulary with 90-95% proficiency in varying contexts.
- Students will be able to identify the meaning of these words and how they relate in varying contexts and use them in their writing.
- Understand word relationships and word origins.
- Students will know how to make use of glossaries, dictionaries, thesauruses, and the internet to identify unknown words.

## **WORLD KNOWLEDGE**

- Apply things they have seen, done, and concepts learned in the classroom and outside it and relate them to their writing, text, and life experiences.
- Students will take the 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade vocabulary they have learned and apply those words to their lives through speaking and writing.

## **FLUENCY**

- Read 5<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> grade questions, directions, and many types of literature at a fluency rate of 150-160 words per minute.
- Read orally at a fluency rate that doesn't hinder the meaning of the text.
- Obey punctuation and read with expression.

## **COMPREHENSION (Oral and Skills)**

- Recall, apply, and analyze their grade level appropriate word and world knowledge, and fluency to show comprehension of various texts.
- Make use of the various texts read to them by the teacher to build oral comprehension through the various experiences heard.
- Understand and make use of figurative language in text and writing.
- Independently read and understand various texts using skills taught to them.

## **GRAMMAR**

- Students will be able to identify and begin to use properly the 8 parts of speech in their daily work, oral communication, and writing.
- Make use of proper subject verb agreement in oral and written communication.

## **WRITING**

- Students will be able to write legibly and with grammatical correctness in print or cursive for various styles of text. Ex. Note taking, 4-5 paragraph essays, etc.
- Students will also be able to write in various styles of sentence structure. Ex. Simple, Compound, Complex.
- Make use of the writing process in their writing.

## **SPELLING**

- Spell 90% of their 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade vocabulary correctly.
- Make use of spelling strategies, phonetic rules, and patterns to reach 90% goal.

### **LISTENING AND SPEAKING**

- Pay attention and stay focused on what the teacher and his or her classmates say.
- Understand the importance of thinking about the speaker's ideas.
- Show that they are paying attention and thinking through: eye contact, facial gestures, and responses, and following of multistep directions.
- Respond at any time to questions and statements made by the teacher.
- Speak with purpose.

## **Grade Level Measurable Objectives for Seventh and Eighth Grade**

### **WORD KNOWLEDGE**

- Make Broad-based knowledge of the appropriate 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade level vocabulary with 90-95% proficiency in varying contexts.
- Apply previously learned words to new contexts.
- Understand word relationships, word origins, and root awareness.
- Using tools such as the glossaries, dictionaries, thesauruses, context clues, and the internet to identify unknown words.

### **WORLD KNOWLEDGE**

- Apply things they have seen, done, and concepts learned in the classroom and outside it and relate them to the text as well as life experiences.
- Use the 7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade vocabulary and apply them to their speaking and writing.

### **FLUENCY**

- Read for purpose and understanding at a minimum of 150 - 160 correct words per minute
- Understand various types of literature including dialogue.
- Read 8<sup>th</sup> grade level texts smoothly, obeying punctuation and expression.

### **COMPREHENSION (Oral and Skills)**

- Expand their oral comprehension through read alouds and discussion
- Recall, apply, analyze, and evaluate their grade level appropriate word and world knowledge and fluency to show comprehension of various texts (questions)
- Understand the main concepts of the text in independent reading using the comprehension strategies taught to them to decipher meaning.
- Understand and make use of figurative language in text, in writing and speaking.

### **GRAMMAR**

- Identify the 8 parts of speech in sentence structures including their own writing.
- Compose grammatically correct sentences including proper mechanics.
- Apply grammatical knowledge to oral speaking.

## **WRITING**

- Understand the steps in the writing process and implement them in essay formats.
- Write several types of genres of writing with varying complete sentence structures (simple, compound, complex, compound-complex) including proper mechanics in all subject matter.
- Write legibly in cursive with grammatical correctness in note taking and in assignments.
- Apply the grammatical correctness of writing.

## **SPELLING**

- Follow spelling strategies, phonics rules, to successfully spell 7th-8th vocabulary word lists.
- Spell 90% of their 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade vocabulary correctly

## **LISTENING AND SPEAKING**

- Apply good listening traits of SLANT (Sit attentively, Look & listen, Ask & answer questions, Notice & nod to what speaker is saying, Track the talker with eye contact) in the classroom.
- Use listening traits while others, including the teachers or classmates speak.
- Demonstrate good listening skills by following multi-step directions.
- Be respectful to the speaker.
- Speak with purpose clearly and loud enough to be heard by the class.