

LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS

Kindergarten

Reading

1.0 Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development

Students know about letters, words, and sounds. They apply this knowledge to read simple sentences.

Concepts About Print

- 1.1 Identify the front cover, back cover, and title page of a book (e.g. Bible, biblical storybooks, and general literature).**
- 1.2 Follow words from left to right and from top to bottom on the printed page.**
- 1.3 Understand that printed materials provide information.**
- 1.4 Recognize that sentences in print are made up of separate words.**
- 1.5 Distinguish letters from words.**
- 1.6 Recognize and name all uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet.**

Phonemic Awareness

- 1.7 Track (move sequentially from sound to sound) and represent the number, sameness/difference, and order of two and three isolated phonemes (e.g., /f, s, th/, /j, d, j/).**
- 1.8 Track and represent changes in simple syllables and words with two and three sounds as one sound is added, substituted, omitted, shifted, or repeated (e.g., vowel-consonant, consonant-vowel, or consonant-vowel-consonant).**
- 1.9 Blend vowel-consonant sounds orally to make words or syllables.**
- 1.10 Identify and produce rhyming words in response to an oral prompt.**
- 1.11 Distinguish orally stated one-syllable words and separate into beginning or ending sounds.**
- 1.12 Track auditorily each word in a sentence and each syllable in a word..**
- 1.13 Count the number of sounds in syllables and syllables in words**

Decoding and Word Recognition

- 1.14 Match all consonant and short-vowel sounds to appropriate letters.**
- 1.15 Read simple one-syllable, high-frequency sight words. (e.g. God, love, Mom, Dad)**
- 1.16 Understand that as letters of words change, so do the sounds (e.g., the alphabetic principle).**

Vocabulary and Concept Development

- 1.17 Identify and sort common words in basic categories (e.g., colors, shapes, foods).**
- 1.18 Describe common objects and events in both general and specific language.**

2.0 Reading Comprehension

Structural Features of Informational Materials

- 2.1 Locate the title, table of contents, name of author, and name of illustrator (e.g. Bible, biblical storybooks, general literature).**

Comprehension and Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text

- 2.2 Use pictures and context to make predictions about story content.**
- 2.3 Connect to life experiences the information and events in texts.**

- 2.4 Retell familiar stories from literature and the Bible.
- 2.5 Ask and answer questions about essential elements of a text.

3.0 Literary Response and Analysis

Narrative Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text

- 3.1 Distinguish fantasy from realistic text. (e.g. Bible includes factual and historical information.)
- 3.2 Identify types of everyday print materials (e.g., Bible, storybooks, poems, newspapers, signs, labels).
- 3.3 Identify characters, settings, and important events, including those from our Catholic faith.

Writing

1.0 Writing Strategies

Organization and Focus

- 1.1 Use letters and phonetically spelled words to write about experiences, stories, people, objects, or events. (e.g. God, Jesus, love, Mom, Dad)
- 1.2 Write consonant-vowel-consonant words (i.e., demonstrate the alphabetic principle).
- 1.3 Write by moving from left to right and from top to bottom.

Penmanship

- 1.4 Write upper case and lower case letters of the alphabet independently, attending to the form and proper spacing of the letters.

Written and Oral English Language Conventions

Sentence Structure

- 1.1 Recognize and use complete, coherent sentences when speaking.

Spelling

- 1.2 Spell independently by using pre-phonetic knowledge, sounds of the alphabet, and knowledge of letter names.

Listening and Speaking

1.0 Listening and Speaking Strategies

Comprehension

- 1.1 Understand and follow one- and two-step oral directions.
- 1.2 Share information and ideas, speaking audibly in complete, coherent sentences
- 1.3 Describe how characters in stories lived a Christ-like life.
- 1.4 Discuss, comprehend, and relate Biblical, and other forms of literature, to daily faith formation.
- 1.5 Describe people, places, things (e.g., size, color, shape), locations and actions
- 1.6 Recite short poems, rhymes, and songs.
- 1.7 Relate an experience or creative story in a logical sequence.
- 1.8 *Discuss biblical stories and stories that exemplify our Catholic faith.*

LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS

Grade One

Reading

1.0 Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development

Students understand the basic features of reading. They select letter patterns and know how to translate them into spoken language by using phonics, syllabication, and word parts. They apply this knowledge to achieve fluent oral and silent reading. Where possible and appropriate, the teacher will incorporate readings and writings expressive of the Catholic faith.

Concepts about Print

1.1 Match oral words to printed words.

1.2 Identify the title and author of a reading selection, and make use of religion class resources.

1.3 Identify letters, words, and sentences.

Phonemic Awareness

1.4 Distinguish initial, medial, and final sounds in single-syllable words.

1.5 Distinguish long- and short-vowel sounds in orally stated single-syllable words (e.g., bit/bite).

1.6 Create and state a series of rhyming words, including consonant blends.

1.7 Add, delete, or change target sounds to change words (e.g., change cow to how; pan to an).

1.8 Blend two to four phonemes into recognizable words (e.g., /c/a/t/ = cat; /f/l/a/t/ = flat).

1.9 Segment single syllable words into their components (e.g., cat = /c/a/t/; splat = /s/p/l/a/t/).

Decoding and Word Recognition

1.10 Generate the sounds from all the letters and letter patterns, including consonant blends and long- and short-vowel patterns (i.e., phonograms), and blend those sounds into recognizable words.

1.11 Read common, irregular sight words (e.g., the, have, said, come, give, of).

1.12 Use knowledge of vowel digraphs and r-controlled letter-sound associations to read words.

1.13 Read compound words and contractions.

1.14 Read inflectional forms (e.g., -s, -ed, -ing) and root words (e.g., look, looked, looking).

1.15 Read common word families (e.g., -ite, -ate).

1.16 Read aloud with fluency in a manner that sounds like natural speech.

Vocabulary and Concept Development

1.17 Classify grade-appropriate categories of words (e.g., concrete collections of animals, foods, toys. Articles found in the church).

2.0 Reading Comprehension

Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material, including grade level Bibles. They draw upon a variety of comprehension strategies as needed (e.g., generating and responding to essential questions, making predictions, comparing information from several sources). Students will be introduced to the different genre found in scripture. In addition to their regular school

reading, by grade four, students read one-half million words annually, including a good representation of grade-level-appropriate narrative and expository text (e.g., classic and contemporary literature, magazines, newspapers, online information). In grade one, students begin to make progress toward this goal.

Structural Features of Informational Materials

2.1 Identify text that uses sequence and other logical order. Where appropriate use saint stories and scripture.

Comprehension and Analysis of Text

2.2 Respond to who, what, when, where, and how questions.

2.3 Follow one-step written instructions.

2.4 Use context to resolve ambiguities about word and sentence meanings.

2.5 Confirm predictions about what will happen next in a text by identifying key words (i.e., signpost words).

2.6 Relate prior knowledge to textual information.

2.7 Retell the central ideas of simple expository or narrative passages.

2.8 Apply prior knowledge and central idea to all areas of curriculum, including scripture stories.

3.0 Literary Response and Analysis

Students read and respond to a wide variety of significant works of children's literature, including those with religious themes and the Bible. They distinguish between the structural features of the text and the literary terms or elements (e.g., theme, plot, setting, characters).

Narrative Analysis of Text

3.1 Identify and describe the elements of plot, setting, and character(s) in a story, as well as the story's beginning, middle and ending. Apply when using parables and other scripture stories.

3.2 Describe the roles of authors and illustrators and their contributions to print material.

3.3 Recollect, talk, and write about books read during the school year.

Writing

1.0 Writing Strategies

Organization and Focus

1.1 Select a focus when writing.

1.2 Use descriptive words when writing.

Penmanship

1.3 Print legibly and space letters, words, and sentences appropriately.

2.0 Writing Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics)

Using the writing strategies of grade one outlined in Writing Standard 1.0, students:

2.1 Write brief narratives (e.g., fictional, autobiographical) describing a Christian experience.

2.2 Write brief expository descriptions of a real object, person, place, or event, using sensory details.

Written and Oral English Language Conventions

The standards for written and oral English language conventions have been placed between those for writing and for listening and speaking because these conventions are essential to both sets of skills.

Sentence Structure

1.1 Write and speak in complete, coherent sentences.

Grammar

1.2 Identify and correctly use singular and plural nouns.

1.3 Identify and correctly use contractions (e.g., isn't, aren't, can't, won't) and singular possessive pronouns (e.g., my/mine, his/her, hers, your/s) in writing and speaking.

Punctuation

1.4 Distinguish between declarative, exclamatory, and interrogative sentences.

1.5 Use a period, exclamation point, or question mark at the end of sentences.

1.6 Use knowledge of the basic rules of punctuation and capitalization when writing.

Capitalization

1.7 Capitalize the first word of a sentence, names of people, and the pronoun I.

Spelling

1.8 Spell three- and four-letter short-vowel words and grade-level-appropriate sight words correctly.

Listening and Speaking

1.0 Listening and Speaking Strategies

Comprehension

1.1 Listen attentively.

1.2 Ask questions for clarification and understanding.

1.3 Give, restate, and follow simple two-step directions.

Organization and Delivery of Oral Communication

1.4 Stay on the topic when speaking.

1.5 Use descriptive words when speaking about people, places, things, and events.

2.0 Speaking Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics)

Use Speaking Strategies from 1.0

2.1 Recite poems, rhymes, songs, secular stories, and Bible verses and stories.

2.2 Retell stories using basic story grammar and relating the sequence of story events by answering who, what, when, where, why and how questions. Apply this skill to Bible stories.

2.3 Relate an important life event or personal experience in a simple sequence.

2.4 Provide descriptions with careful attention to sensory detail.

LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS

Grade Two

Reading

1.0 Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development

Students understand the basic features of reading. They select letter patterns and know how to translate them into spoken language by using phonics, syllabication, and word parts. They apply this knowledge to achieve fluent oral and silent reading.

Decoding and Word Recognition

- 1.1 Recognize and use knowledge of spelling patterns (e.g., diphthongs, special vowel spellings) when reading.
- 1.2 Apply knowledge of basic syllabication rules when reading (e.g., vowel-consonant-vowel = su/per; vowel-consonant/consonant-vowel = sup/per).
- 1.3 Decode two-syllable nonsense words and regular multi-syllable words.
- 1.4 Recognize common abbreviations (e.g., Jan., Sun., Mr., St.).
- 1.5 Identify and correctly use regular plurals (e.g., -s, -es, -ies) and irregular plurals (e.g., fly/flies, wife/wives).
- 1.6 Read aloud fluently and accurately and with appropriate intonation and expression.

Vocabulary and Concept Development

- 1.7 Understand and explain common antonyms and synonyms.
- 1.8 Use knowledge of individual words in unknown compound words to predict their meaning.
- 1.9 Know the meaning of simple prefixes and suffixes (e.g., over-, un-, -ing, -ly).
- 1.10 Identify simple multiple-meaning words.

2.0 Reading Comprehension

Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material, including grade-level Bibles. They draw upon a variety of comprehension strategies as needed (e.g., generating and responding to essential questions, making predictions, comparing information from several sources). In addition to their regular school reading, by grade four, students read one-half million words annually, including a good representation of grade-level-appropriate narrative and expository text (e.g., classic and contemporary literature, magazines, newspapers, including The Catholic Herald, online information and religious texts). In grade two, students continue to make progress toward this goal.

Structural Features of Informational Materials

- 2.1 Use titles, tables of contents, and chapter headings to locate information in expository text.

Comprehension and Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text

- 2.2 State the purpose in reading (i.e., tell what information is sought).
- 2.3 Use knowledge of the author's purpose(s) to comprehend informational text.
- 2.4 Ask clarifying questions about essential textural elements of exposition (e.g., why, what if, how).
- 2.5 Restate facts and details in the text to clarify and organize ideas.
- 2.6 Recognize cause-and-effect relationships in a text.
- 2.7 Interpret information from diagrams, charts, and graphs.

2.8 Follow two-step written instructions.

3.0 Literary Response and Analysis

Students read and respond to a wide variety of significant works of children's literature and the Bible. They distinguish between the structural features of the text and the literary terms or elements (e.g., theme, plot, setting, characters). The selections in Recommended Readings in Literature, Kindergarten Through Grade Eight and selected Bible stories, illustrate the quality and complexity of the materials to be read by students.

Narrative Analysis of Grade-level-Appropriate Text

- 3.1 Compare and contrast plots, settings, and characters presented by different authors.
- 3.2 Generate alternative endings to plots and identify the reason or reasons for, and the impact of, the alternatives.
- 3.3 Compare and contrast different versions of the same stories that reflect different cultures.
- 3.4 Identify the use of rhythm, rhyme, and alliteration in poetry.

Writing

1.0 Writing Strategies

Organization and Focus

- 1.1 Group related ideas and maintain a consistent focus.

Penmanship

- 1.2 Create readable documents with legible handwriting.

Research

- 1.3 Understand the purposes of various reference materials (e.g., dictionary, thesaurus, atlas, internet).

Evaluation and Revision

- 1.4 Revise original drafts to improve sequence and provide more descriptive detail.

2.0 Writing Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics)

Using the writing strategies of grade two, outlined in Writing Standard 1.0, student:

- 2.1 Write brief narratives based on their Christian experiences:
 - a. Move through a logical sequence of events.
 - b. Describe the setting, characters, objects, and events in detail.
 - c. Journal in a First Communion Memory Book.
- 2.2 Write a friendly letter complete with the date, salutation, body, closing, and signature, (e.g. a letter to grandparents about their First Communion)..
- 2.3 Write a church petition.

Written and Oral English Language Conventions

The standards for written and oral English language conventions have been placed between those for writing and for listening and speaking because these conventions are essential to both sets of skills.

Sentence Structure

- 1.1 Distinguish between complete and incomplete sentences.
- 1.2 Recognize and use the correct word order in written sentences.

Grammar

1.3 Identify and correctly use various parts of speech, including nouns and verbs, in writing and speaking.

Punctuation

1.4 Use commas in the greeting and closure of a letter and with dates and items in a series.

1.5 Use quotation marks correctly.

Capitalization

1.6 Capitalize all proper nouns, words at the beginning of sentences and greetings, months and days of the week, and titles and initials of people.

Spelling

1.7 Spell frequently used, irregular words correctly (e.g., was, were, says, said, who, what, why).

1.8 Spell basic short-vowel, long-vowel, r-controlled, and consonant-blend patterns correctly.

Listening and Speaking

1.0 Listening and Speaking Strategies

Comprehension

1.1 Determine the purpose or purposes of listening (e.g., to obtain information, to solve problems, for enjoyment).

1.2 Ask for clarification and explanation of stories and ideas.

1.3 Paraphrase information that has been shared orally by others.

1.4 Give and follow three- and four-step oral directions.

Organization and Delivery of Oral Communication

1.5 Organize presentations to maintain a clear focus.

1.6 Speak clearly and at an appropriate pace for the type of communication (e.g., informal discussion, report to class).

1.7 Recount experiences in a logical sequence.

1.8 Retell stories, including characters, setting, and plot.

1.9 Report on a topic with supportive facts and details.

2.0 Speaking Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics)

Using the speaking strategies of grade two outlined in Listening and Speaking Standard 1.0, students:

2.1 Recount experiences or present stories:

a. Move through a logical sequence of events (e.g. retell Bible stories).

b. Describe story elements (e.g., characters, plot, setting).

2.2 Report on a topic with facts and details, drawing from several sources of information.

2.3 Recite Bible verses, prayers, and songs.

2.4 Read in Mass or present a Mass reading in class.

LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS

Grade Three

Reading

1.0 Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development

Students understand the basic features of reading. They select letter patterns and know how to translate them into spoken language by using phonics, syllabication, and word parts. They apply this knowledge to achieve fluent oral and silent reading.

Decoding and Word Recognition

1.1 Know and use complex word families when reading (e.g., -ight) to decode unfamiliar words.

1.2 Decode regular multi-syllabic words.

1.3 Read aloud narrative and expository text fluently and accurately and with appropriate pacing, intonation, and expression.

Vocabulary and Concept Development

1.4 Use knowledge of antonyms, synonyms, homophones, and homographs to determine the meanings of words.

1.5 Demonstrate knowledge of levels of specificity among grade-appropriate words and explain the importance of these relations (e.g., dog/mammal/animal/living things).

1.6 Use sentence and word context to find the meaning of unknown words.

1.7 Use a dictionary to learn the meaning and other features of unknown words.

1.8 Use knowledge of prefixes (e.g., un-, re-, pre-, bi-, mis-, dis-) and suffixes (e.g., -er, -est, -ful) to determine the meaning of words.

2.0 Reading Comprehension

Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material, including grade-level Bibles. They draw upon a variety of comprehension strategies as needed (e.g., generating and responding to essential questions, making predictions, comparing information from several sources). In addition to their regular school reading, by grade four, students read one-half million words annually, including a good representation of grade-level-appropriate narrative and expository text (e.g., classic and contemporary literature, magazines, newspapers, online information). In grade three, students make substantial progress toward this goal.

Structural Features of Informational Materials

2.1 Use titles, tables of contents, chapter headings, glossaries, and indexes to locate information in text.

Comprehension and Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text

2.2 Ask questions and support answers by connecting prior knowledge with literal information found in, and inferred from, the text.

2.3 Demonstrate comprehension by identifying answers in the text.

2.4 Recall major points in the text and make and modify predictions about forthcoming information.

2.5 Distinguish the main idea and supporting details in expository text.

2.6 Extract appropriate and significant information from the text, including problems and solutions.

2.7 Follow simple multiple-step written instructions (e.g., how to assemble a product or play a board game).

3.0 Literary Response and Analysis

Students read and respond to a wide variety of significant works of children's literature and the Bible. They distinguish between the structural features of the text and the literary terms or elements (e.g., theme, plot, setting, characters).

Structural Features of Informational Materials

3.1 Distinguish common forms of literature (e.g., poetry, drama, fiction, nonfiction).

Comprehension and Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text

3.2 Comprehend basic plots of classic fairy tales, myths, folktales, legends, and fables from around the world.

3.3 Determine what characters are like by what they say or do and by how the author or illustrator portrays them.

3.4 Determine the underlying theme or author's message in fiction and nonfiction text.

3.5 Recognize the similarities of sounds in words and rhythmic patterns (e.g., alliteration, onomatopoeia) in a selection.

3.6 Identify the speaker or narrator in a selection.

Writing

1.0 Writing Strategies

Students write clear and coherent sentences and paragraphs that develop a central idea. Their writing shows they consider the audience and purposes. Students progress through the stages of the writing process (e.g., prewriting, drafting, revising, editing successive versions).

Organization and Focus

1.1 Create a single paragraph:

- a. Develop a topic sentence.**
- b. Include simple supporting facts and details.**

Penmanship

1.2 Write legibly in cursive or joined italic, allowing margins and correct spacing between letters in a word and words in a sentence.

Research and Technology

1.3 Understand the structure and organization of various reference materials (e.g., dictionary, thesaurus, atlas, encyclopedia, internet).

Evaluation and Revision

1.4 Revise drafts to improve the coherence and logical progression of ideas by using an established rubric.

2.0 Writing Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics)

Students write compositions that describe and explain familiar objects, events, and Christian experiences. Student writing demonstrates a command of standard American English and the drafting, research, and organizational strategies outlined in Writing Standard 1.0.

Using the writing strategies of grade three outlined in Writing Standard 1.0, students:

2.1 Write narratives:

- a. Provide a context within which an action takes place.
- b. Include well-chosen details to develop the plot.
- c. Provide insight into why the selected incident is memorable.

2.2 Write descriptions that use concrete sensory details to present and support unified impressions of people, places, things, and experiences.

2.3 Write personal and formal letters, thank-you notes, and invitations:

- a. Show awareness of the knowledge and interests of the audience and establish a purpose and context.
- b. Include the date, proper salutation, body, closing, and signature.

2.4 Write a Church petition.

Written and Oral English Language Conventions

The standards for written and oral English language conventions have been placed between those for writing and for listening and speaking because these conventions are essential to both sets of skills.

Students write and speak with a command of standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.

Sentence Structure

- 1.1 Understand and be able to use complete and correct declarative, interrogative, imperative, and exclamatory sentences in writing and speaking.**

Grammar

- 1.2 Identify subjects and verbs that are in agreement and identify and use pronouns, adjectives, compound words, and articles correctly in writing and speaking.**
- 1.3 Identify and use past, present, and future verb tenses properly in writing and speaking.**
- 1.4 Identify and use subjects and verbs correctly in speaking and writing simple sentences.**

Punctuation

- 1.5 Punctuate dates, city and state, and titles of books correctly.**
- 1.6 Use commas in dates, locations, and addresses and for items in a series.**

Capitalization

- 1.7 Capitalize geographical names, holidays, historical periods, and special events correctly.**

Spelling

- 1.8 Spell correctly one-syllable words that have blends, contractions, compounds, orthographic patterns (e.g., qu, consonant doubling, changing the ending of a word from -y to -ies when forming the plural), and common homophones (e.g., hair-hare).**
- 1.9 Arrange words in alphabetic order.**

Listening and Speaking

1.0 Listening and Speaking Strategies

Students listen critically and respond appropriately to oral communication. They speak in a manner that guides the listener to understand important ideas by using proper phrasing, pitch, and modulation.

Comprehension

1.1 Retell, paraphrase, and explain what has been said by a speaker.

1.2 Connect and relate prior experiences, insights, and ideas to those of a speaker.

1.3 Respond to questions with appropriate elaboration.

1.4 Identify the musical elements of literary language (e.g., rhymes, repeated sounds, instances of onomatopoeia).

Organization and Delivery of Oral Communication

1.5 Organize ideas chronologically or around major points of information.

1.6 Provide a beginning, a middle, and an end, including concrete details that develop a central idea.

1.7 Use clear and specific vocabulary to communicate ideas and establish the tone.

1.8 Clarify and enhance oral presentations through the use of appropriate props (e.g., objects, pictures, charts).

1.9 Read prose and poetry aloud with fluency, rhythm, and pace, using appropriate intonation and vocal patterns to emphasize important passages of the text being read.

Analysis and Evaluation of Oral and Media Communications

1.10 Compare ideas and points of view expressed in broadcast and print media.

1.11 Distinguish between the speaker's opinions and verifiable facts.

2.0 Speaking Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics)

Students deliver brief recitations and oral presentations about familiar experiences or interests that are organized around a coherent thesis statement. Student speaking demonstrates a command of standard American English and the organizational and delivery strategies outlined in Listening and Speaking Standard 1.0.

Using the speaking strategies of grade three outlined in Listening and Speaking Standard 1.0, students:

2.1 Make brief narrative presentations:

a. Provide a context for an incident that is the subject of the presentation.

b. Provide insight into why the selected incident is memorable.

c. Include well-chosen details to develop character, setting, and plot.

2.2 Plan and present dramatic interpretations of experiences, stories, poems, or plays with clear diction, pitch, tempo, and tone.

2.3 Make descriptive presentations that use concrete sensory details to set forth and support unified impressions of people, places, things, or experiences.

2.4 Read in Mass or present a Mass reading in class.

LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS

Grade Four

Reading

1.0 Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development

Students understand the basic features of reading. They select letter patterns and know how to translate them into spoken language by using phonics, syllabication, and word parts. They apply this knowledge to achieve fluent oral and silent reading.

Word Recognition

1.1 Read narrative and expository text aloud with grade-appropriate fluency and accuracy and with appropriate pacing, intonation, and expression.

Vocabulary and Concept Development

1.2 Apply knowledge of word origins, derivations, synonyms, antonyms, and idioms to determine the meaning of words and phrases.

1.3 Use knowledge of root words to determine the meaning of unknown words within a passage.

1.4 Know common roots and affixes derived from Greek and Latin and use this knowledge to analyze the meaning of complex words (e.g., international).

1.5 Use a thesaurus to determine related words and concepts.

1.6 Distinguish and interpret words with multiple meanings.

2.0 Reading Comprehension

Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material, including grade-level Bibles. They draw upon a variety of comprehension strategies as needed (e.g., generating and responding to essential questions, making predictions, comparing information from several sources). In addition to their regular school reading, students read one-half million words annually, including a good representation of grade-level-appropriate narrative and expository text (e.g., classic and contemporary literature, magazines, newspapers, online information).

Structural Features of Informational Materials

2.1 Identify structural patterns found in informational text (e.g., compare and contrast, cause and effect, sequential or chronological order, proposition and support) to strengthen comprehension.

Comprehension and analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text

2.2 Use appropriate strategies when reading for different purposes (e.g., full comprehension, location of information, personal enjoyment).

2.3 Make and confirm predictions about text by using prior knowledge and ideas presented in the text itself, including illustrations, titles, topic sentences, important words, and foreshadowing clues.

2.4 Evaluate new information and hypotheses by testing them against known information and ideas.

2.5 Compare and contrast information on the same topic after reading several passages or articles.

2.6 Distinguish between cause and effect and between fact and opinion in expository text.

2.7 Follow multiple-step instructions in a basic technical manual (e.g., how to use computer commands or video games).

3.0 Literary Response and Analysis

Students read and respond to a wide variety of significant works of children's literature and the Bible. They distinguish between the structural features of the text and the literary terms or elements (e.g., theme, plot, setting, characters).

Structural Features of Literature

3.1 Describe the structural differences of various imaginative forms of literature, including fantasies, fables, myths, legends, and fairy tales.

Narrative Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text

3.2 Identify the main events of the plot, their causes, and the influence of each event on future actions.

3.3 Use knowledge of the situation and setting and of a character's traits and motivations to determine the causes for that character's actions.

3.4 Compare and contrast tales from different cultures by tracing the exploits of one character type and develop theories to account for similar tales in diverse cultures (e.g., trickster tales).

3.5 Define figurative language (e.g., simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification) and identify its use in literary works.

Writing

1.0 Writing Strategies

Students write clear, coherent sentences and paragraphs that develop a central idea. Their writing shows they consider the audience and purpose. Students progress through the stages of the writing process (e.g., prewriting, drafting, revising, editing successive versions).

Organization and Focus

1.1 Select a focus, an organizational structure, and a point of view based upon purpose, audience, length, and format requirements.

1.2 Create multiple-paragraph compositions:

a. Provide an introductory paragraph.

b. Establish and support a central idea with a topic sentence at or near the beginning of the first paragraph.

c. Include supporting paragraphs with simple facts, details, and explanations.

d. Conclude with a paragraph that summarizes the points.

e. Use correct indentation.

1.3 Use traditional structures for conveying information (e.g., chronological order, cause and effect, similarity and difference, and posing and answering a question).

Penmanship

1.4 Write fluidly and legibly in cursive or joined italic.

Research and Technology

1.5 Quote or paraphrase information sources, citing them appropriately.

- 1.6 Locate information in reference texts by using organizational features (e.g., prefaces, appendixes).**
- 1.7 Use various reference materials (e.g., dictionary, thesaurus, card catalog, encyclopedia, online information) as an aid to writing.**
- 1.8 Understand the organization of almanacs, newspapers, and periodicals and how to use those print materials.**
- 1.9 Demonstrate basic keyboarding skills and familiarity with computer terminology (e.g., cursor, software, memory, disk drive, hard drive).**
- 1.10 Edit and revise selected drafts to improve coherence and progression by adding, deleting, consolidating, and rearranging text.**

2.0 Writing Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics)

Students write compositions that describe and explain familiar objects, events, and Christian experiences. Student writing demonstrates a command of standard American English and the drafting, research, and organizational strategies outlined in Writing Standard 1.0.

Using the writing strategies of grade four outlined in Writing Standard 1.0, students:

2.1 Write narratives:

- a. Relate ideas, observations, or recollections of an event or experience.**
- b. Provide a context to enable the reader to imagine the world of the event or experience.**
- c. Use concrete sensory details.**
- d. Provide insight into why the selected event or experience is memorable.**

2.2 Write responses to literature and the Bible:

- a. Demonstrate an understanding of the literary work.**
- b. Support judgments through references to both the text and prior knowledge.**

2.3 Write information reports:

- a. Frame a central question about an issue or situation.**
- b. Include facts and details for focus.**
- c. Draw from more than one source of information (e.g., speakers, books, newspapers, other media sources).**

2.4 Write summaries that contain the main ideas of the reading selection and the most significant details.

2.5 Write a Church petition.

Written and Oral English Language Conventions

The standard for written and oral English language conventions have been placed between those for writing and for listening and speaking because these conventions are essential to both sets of skills.

1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions

Students write and speak with a command of Standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.

Sentence Structure

- 1.1 Use simple and compound sentences in writing and speaking.**
- 1.2 Combine short, related sentences with appositives, participial phrases, adjectives, adverbs, and prepositional phrases.**

Grammar

1.3 Identify and use regular and irregular verbs, adverbs, prepositions, and coordinating conjunctions in writing and speaking.

Punctuation

1.4 Use parentheses, commas in direct quotations, and apostrophes in the possessive case of nouns and in contractions.

1.5 Use underlining, quotation marks, or italics to identify titles of documents.

Capitalization

1.6 Capitalize names of magazines, newspapers, works of art, musical compositions, organizations, and the first word in quotations when appropriate.

Spelling

1.7 Spell correctly roots, inflections, suffixes and prefixes, and syllable constructions.

Listening and Speaking

1.0 Listening and Speaking Strategies

Students listen critically and respond appropriately to oral communication. They speak in a manner that guides the listener to understand important ideas by using proper phrasing, pitch, and modulation.

Comprehension

1.1 Ask thoughtful questions and respond to relevant questions with appropriate elaboration in oral settings.

1.2 Summarize major ideas and supporting evidence presented in spoken messages and formal presentations.

1.3 Identify how language usages (e.g., sayings, expressions) reflect regions and cultures.

1.4 Give precise directions and instructions.

Organization and Delivery of Oral Communication

1.5 Present effective introductions and conclusions that guide and inform the listener's understanding of important ideas and evidence.

1.6 Use traditional structures for conveying information (e.g., cause and effect, similarity and difference, and posing and answering a question).

1.7 Emphasize points in ways that help the listener or viewer to follow important ideas and concepts.

1.8 Use details, examples, anecdotes, or experiences to explain or clarify information.

1.9 Use volume, pitch, phrasing, pace, modulation, and gestures appropriately to enhance meaning.

Analysis and Evaluation of Oral media Communication

1.10 Evaluate the role of the media in focusing attention on events and in forming opinions on issues.

1.11 Weigh media against religious standards taught.

2.0 Speaking Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics)

Students deliver brief recitations and oral presentations about familiar experiences or interests that are organized around a coherent thesis statement. Student speaking demonstrates a command of standard American English and the organizational and delivery strategies outlined in Listening and Speaking Standard 1.0.

Using the speaking strategies of grade four, outlined in Listening and Speaking Standard 1.0, students:

2.1 Make narrative presentations:

- a. Relate ideas, observations, or recollections about an event or experience.**
- b. Provide a context that enables the listener to imagine the circumstances of the event or experience.**
- c. Provide insight into why the selected event or experience is memorable.**

2.2 Make informational presentations:

- a. Frame a key question.**
- b. Include facts and details that help listeners to focus.**
- c. Incorporate more than one source of information (e.g., speakers, books, newspapers, television or radio reports).**

2.3 Deliver oral summaries of articles and books that contain the main ideas of the event or article and the most significant details.

2.4 Recite brief poems (i.e., two or three stanzas), soliloquies, or dramatic dialogues, using clear diction, tempo, volume, and phrasing.

2.5 Read in Mass or present a Mass reading in class.

LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS

Grade Five

Reading

1.0 Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development

Students use their knowledge of word origins and word relationships, as well as historical and literary context clues, to determine the meaning of specialized vocabulary and to understand the precise meaning of grade-level-appropriate words.

Word Recognition

1.1 Read aloud narrative and expository text fluently and accurately and with appropriate pacing, intonation, and expression.

Vocabulary and Concept Development

1.2 Use word origins to determine the meaning of unknown words.

1.3 Understand and explain frequently used synonyms, antonyms, and homographs.

1.4 Know abstract, derived roots and affixes from Greek and Latin and use this knowledge to analyze the meaning of complex words. (e.g., controversial).

1.5 Understand and explain the figurative and metaphorical use of words in context.

2.0 Reading Comprehension (Focus on Informational Materials)

Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material and grade-level Bibles. They describe and connect the essential ideas, arguments, and perspectives of the text by using their knowledge of text structure, organization, and purpose. In addition, by grade eight, students read one million words annually on their own, including a good representation of grade-level-appropriate narrative and expository text (e.g., classic and contemporary literature, magazines, newspapers, online information). In grade five, students make progress toward this goal.

Structural Features of Informational Materials

2.1 Understand how text features (e.g., format, graphics, sequence, diagrams, illustrations, charts, maps) make information accessible and usable.

2.2 Analyze text that is organized in sequential or chronological order.

Comprehension and analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text

2.3 Discern main ideas and concepts presented in texts, identifying and assessing evidence that supports those ideas.

2.4 Draw inferences, conclusions, or generalizations about text and support them with textual evidence and prior knowledge.

Expository Critique

2.5 Distinguish facts, supported inferences, and opinions in text.

2.6 Analyze and identify the teachings of parable in the Bible.

3.0 Literary Response and Analysis

Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of literature and the Bible. They begin to find ways to clarify the ideas and make connections between literary works.

Structural Features of Literature

3.1 Identify and analyze the characteristics of poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction and explain the appropriateness of the literary forms chosen by an author for a specific purpose.

Narrative Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text

- 3.2 Identify the main problem or conflict of the plot and explain how it is resolved.**
- 3.3 Contrast the actions, motives (e.g., loyalty, selfishness, conscientiousness), and appearances of characters in a work of fiction and discuss the importance of the contrasts to the plot or theme.**
- 3.4 Understand that theme refers to the meaning or moral of a selection and recognize themes (whether implied or stated directly) in sample works.**
- 3.5 Describe the function and effect of common literary devices (e.g., imagery, metaphor, symbolism).**

Literary Criticism

- 3.6 Evaluate the meaning of archetypal patterns and symbols that are found in myth and tradition by using literature from different eras and cultures.**
- 3.7 Evaluate the author's use of various techniques (e.g., appeal of characters in a picture book, logic and credibility of plots and settings, use of figurative language) to influence readers' perspectives.**

Writing

1.0 Writing Strategies

Students write clear, coherent, and focused essays. The writing exhibits the students' awareness of the audience and purpose. Essays contain formal introductions, supporting evidence, and conclusions. Students progress through the stages of the writing process as needed.

Organization and Focus

1.1 Create multiple-paragraph narrative compositions:

- a. Establish and develop a situation or plot.**
- b. Describe the setting.**
- c. Present an ending.**

1.2 Create multiple-paragraph expository compositions:

- a. Establish a topic, important ideas, or events in sequence or chronological order.**
- b. Provide details and transitional expressions that link one paragraph to another in a clear line of thought.**
- c. Offer a concluding paragraph that summarizes important ideas and details.**

Research and Technology

- 1.3 Use organizational features of printed text (e.g., citations, end notes, bibliographic references) to locate relevant information.**
- 1.4 Create simple documents by using electronic media and employing organizational features (e.g., passwords, entry and pull-down menus, word searches, the thesaurus, spell checks).**
- 1.5 Use a thesaurus to identify alternative word choices and meanings.**

Evaluation and Revision

- 1.6 Edit and revise manuscripts to improve the meaning and focus of writing by adding, deleting, consolidating, clarifying, and rearranging words and sentences.**
- 1.7 Write fluidly and legibly in cursive or joined italic. Copy scripture passages.**

2.0 Writing Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics)

Students write narrative, expository, persuasive, and descriptive texts of at least 500 to 700 words in each genre. Student writing demonstrates a command of standard American English and the research, organizational, and drafting strategies outlined in Writing Standard 1.0.

Using the writing strategies of grade five outlined in Writing Standard 1.0, students:

2.1 Write narratives:

- a. Establish a plot, point of view, setting and conflict.
- b. Show, rather than tell, the events of the story.

2.2 Write responses to literature and the Bible:

- a. Demonstrate an understanding of a literary work.
- b. Support judgments through references to the text and to prior knowledge.
- c. Develop interpretations that exhibit careful reading and understanding.

2.3 Write research reports about important ideas, issues, or events by using the following guidelines:

- a. Frame questions that direct the investigation.
- b. Establish a controlling idea or topic.
- c. Develop the topic with simple facts, details, examples, and explanations.

2.4 Write persuasive letters or compositions:

- a. State a clear position in support of a proposal.
- b. Support a position with relevant evidence.
- c. Follow a simple organizational pattern.
- d. Address reader concerns.
- e. Use a moral issue noting Church teachings.

2.5 Write a Church petition.

2.6 Write an original prayer.

Written and Oral English Language Conventions

The standards for written and oral English language conventions have been placed between those for writing and for listening and speaking because these conventions are essential to both sets of skills.

1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions

Students write and speak with a command of Standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.

Sentence Structure

- 1.1 Identify and correctly use prepositional phrases, appositives, and independent and dependent clauses; use transitions and conjunctions to connect ideas.**

Grammar

- 1.2 Identify and correctly use verbs that are often misused (e.g., lie/lay, sit/set, rise/raise), modifiers, and pronouns.**

Punctuation

- 1.3 Use a colon to separate hours and minutes and to introduce a list; use quotation marks around the exact words of a speaker and titles of poems, songs, short stories, and so forth.**
- 1.4 Use correct punctuation for Bible Verses.

Capitalization

1.5 Use correct capitalization.

Spelling

1.6 Spell roots, suffixes, prefixes, contractions, and syllable constructions correctly.

Listening and Speaking

1.0 Listening and Speaking Strategies

Students deliver focused, coherent presentations that convey ideas clearly and relate to the background and interests of the audience. They evaluate the content of oral communication.

Comprehension

1.1 Ask questions that seek information not already discussed.

1.2 Interpret a speaker's verbal and nonverbal messages, purposes, and perspectives.

1.3 Make inferences or draw conclusions based on an oral report.

Organization and Delivery of Oral Communication

1.4 Select a focus, organizational structure, and point of view for an oral report.

1.5 Clarify and support spoken ideas with evidence and examples.

1.6 Engage the audience with appropriate verbal cues, facial expressions, and gestures.

Analysis and Evaluation of Oral and Media Communications

1.7 Identify, analyze, and critique persuasive techniques (e.g., promises, dares, flattery, glittering generalities); identify logical fallacies used in oral presentations and media messages.

1.8 Analyze media as sources for information, entertainment, persuasion, interpretation of events, and transmission of culture.

1.9 Weigh media messages against the moral and religious standards of the Catholic Church.

2.0 Speaking Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics)

Students deliver well-organized formal presentations employing traditional rhetorical strategies (e.g., narration, exposition, persuasion, description). Student speaking demonstrates a command of standard American English and the organizational and delivery stages outlined in Listening and Speaking Standard 1.0.

Using the speaking strategies of grade five outlined in Listening and speaking Standard 1.0, students:

2.1 Deliver narrative presentations:

a. Establish a situation, plot, point of view, and setting with descriptive words and phrases.

b. Show, rather than tell, the listener what happens.

2.2 Deliver informative presentations about an important idea, issue, or event by the following means:

a. Frame questions to direct the investigation.

b. Establish a controlling idea or topic.

c. Develop the topic with simple facts, details, examples, and explanations.

2.3 Deliver oral responses to literature:

a. Summarize significant events and details.

b. Articulate an understanding of several ideas or images communicated by the literary work.

- c. Use examples or textual evidence from the work to support conclusions.
- 2.4 Read in Mass or present a Mass reading in class.**

LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS

Grade Six

Reading

1.0 Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development

Students use their knowledge of word origins and word relationships, as well as historical and literary context clues, to determine the meaning of specialized vocabulary and to understand the precise meaning of grade-level-appropriate words.

Word Recognition

1.1 Read aloud narrative and expository text fluently and accurately and with appropriate pacing, intonation, and expression.

Vocabulary and Concept Development

1.2 Identify and interpret figurative language and words with multiple meaning.

1.3 Recognize the origins and meanings of frequently used foreign words in English and use these words accurately in speaking and writing.

1.4 Monitor expository text for unknown words or words with novel meanings by using word, sentence and paragraph clues to determine meaning.

1.5 Understand and explain “shades of meaning” in related words (e.g., softly and quietly).

2.0 Reading Comprehension (Focus on Informational Materials)

Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material and grade-level Bibles. They describe and connect the essential ideas, arguments, and perspectives of the text by using their knowledge of text structure, organization, and purpose. In addition, by grade eight, students read one million words annually on their own, including a good representation of grade-level-appropriate narrative and expository text (e.g., classic and contemporary literature, magazines, newspapers, online information). In grade six, students continue to make progress toward this goal.

Structural Features of Informational Materials

2.1 Identify the structural features of popular media (e.g., newspapers, magazines, online information) and use the features to obtain information.

2.2 Analyze text that uses the compare-and-contrast organizational pattern.

Comprehension and Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text

2.3 Connect and clarify main ideas by identifying their relationships to other sources and related topics.

2.4 Clarify an understanding of texts by creating outlines, logical notes, summaries, or reports.

2.5 Follow multiple-step instructions for preparing applications (e.g., for a public library card, bank account, sports club, league membership).

Expository Critique

2.6 Determine the adequacy and appropriateness of the evidence for an author’s conclusions.

2.7 Make reasonable assertions about a text through accurate, supporting citations.

2.8 Note instances of unsupported inferences, fallacious reasoning, persuasion, and propaganda in text.

3.0 Literary Response and Analysis

Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of literature, including the Bible, that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science. They clarify the ideas and connect them to other literary works.

Structural Features and Analysis

3.1 Identify the forms of fiction and describe the major characteristics of each form.

Narrative Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text

3.2 Analyze the effect of the qualities of the character (e.g., courage or cowardice, ambition or laziness, Christ like or non-Christ like) on the plot and the resolution of the conflict.

3.3 Analyze the influence of setting on the problem and its resolution.

3.4 Define how tone or meaning is conveyed in poetry through word choice, figurative language, sentence structure, line length, punctuation, rhythm, repetition, and rhyme.

3.5 Identify the speaker and recognize the difference between first- and third-person narration (e.g., autobiography compared with biography).

3.6 Identify and analyze features of themes conveyed through characters, actions, and images.

3.7 Explain the effects of common literary devices (e.g., symbolism, imagery, metaphor) in a variety of fictional and nonfictional texts.

Literary Criticism

3.8 Critique the credibility of characterization and the degree to which a plot is contrived or realistic (e.g., compare use of fact and fantasy in historical fiction).

Writing

1.0 Writing Strategies

Students write clear, coherent, and focused essays. The writing exhibits students' awareness of the audience and purpose. Essays contain formal introductions, supporting evidence, and conclusions. Students progress through the stages of the writing process as needed.

Organization and Focus

1.1 Choose the form of writing (e.g., personal letter, letter to the editor, review, poem, report, narrative) that best suits the intended purpose.

1.2 Create multiple-paragraph expository compositions:

a. Engage the interest of the reader and state a clear purpose.

b. Develop the topic with supporting details and precise verbs, nouns, and adjectives to paint a visual image in the mind of the reader

c. Conclude with a detailed summary linked to the purpose of the composition.

1.3 Use a variety of effective and coherent organizational patterns, including comparison and contrast; organization by categories; and arrangement by spatial order, order of importance, or climactic order.

Research and Technology

1.4 Use organizational features of electronic text (e.g., bulletin boards, databases, keyword searches, e-mail addresses) to locate information.

1.5 Compose documents with appropriate formatting by using word-processing skills and principles of design (e.g., margins, tabs, spacing, columns, page orientation).

Evaluation and Revision

1.6 Revise writing to improve the organization and consistency of ideas within and between paragraphs.

1.7 Write fluidly and legibly in cursive or joined italic.

2.0 Writing Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics)

Students write narrative, expository, persuasive, and descriptive texts of at least 500 to 700 words in each genre. Student writing demonstrates a command of standard American English and the research, organizational, and drafting strategies outlined in Writing Standard 1.0.

Using the writing strategies of grade six outlined in Writing Standard 1.0, students:

2.1 Write narratives:

- a. Establish and develop a plot and setting and present a point of view that is appropriate to the stories.**
- b. Include sensory details and concrete language to develop plot and character.**
- c. Use a range of narrative devices (e.g., dialogue, suspense).**

2.2 Write expository compositions (e.g., description, explanation, comparison and contrast, problem and solution):

- a. State the thesis or purpose.**
- b. Explain the situation.**
- c. Follow an organizational pattern appropriate to the type of composition.**
- d. Offer persuasive evidence to validate arguments and conclusions as needed.**

2.3 Write research reports:

- a. Pose relevant questions with a scope narrow enough to be thoroughly covered.**
- b. Support the main idea or ideas with facts, details, examples, and explanations from multiple authoritative sources (e.g., speakers, periodicals, online information searches).**
- c. Include a bibliography.**

2.4 Write responses to literature and the Bible:

- a. Develop an interpretation exhibiting careful reading, understanding, and insight.**
- b. Organize the interpretation around several clear ideas, premises, or images.**
- c. Develop and justify the interpretation through sustained use of examples and textual evidence.**

2.5 Write persuasive compositions:

- a. State a clear position on a proposition or proposal.**
- b. Support the position with organized and relevant evidence.**
- c. Anticipate and address reader concerns and counter arguments.**
- d. Using Church teachings, solve a moral issue.**

2.6 Write a Church petition.

2.7 Write an original prayer.

Written and Oral English Language Conventions

The standards for written and oral English language conventions have been placed between those for writing and for listening and speaking because these conventions are essential to both sets of skills.

1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions

Students write and speak with a command of Standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.

Sentence Structure

1.1 Use simple, compound, and compound-complex sentences; use effective coordination and subordination of ideas to express complete thoughts.

Grammar

1.2 Identify and properly use indefinite pronouns and present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect verb tenses; ensure that verbs agree with compound subjects.

Punctuation

1.3 Use colons after the salutation in business letters and in citing Bible verses.

Capitalization

1.4 Use correct capitalization.

Spelling

1.5 Spell frequently misspelled words correctly (e.g., their, they're, there).

Listening and Speaking

1.0 Listening and Speaking Strategies

Students deliver focused, coherent presentations that convey ideas clearly and relate to the background and interests of the audience. They evaluate the content of oral communication.

Comprehension

1.1 Relate the speaker's verbal communication (e.g., word choice, pitch, feeling, tone) to the nonverbal message (e.g., posture, gesture).

1.2 Identify the tone, mood, and emotion conveyed in the oral communication.

1.3 Restate and execute multiple-step oral instructions and directions.

Organization and Delivery of Oral Communication

1.4 Select a focus, an organizational structure, and a point of view, matching the purpose, message, occasion, and vocal modulation to the audience.

1.5 Emphasize the salient points to assist the listener in following the main ideas and concepts.

1.6 Support opinions with detailed evidence and with visual or media displays that use appropriate technology.

1.7 Use effective rate, volume, pitch and tone and align nonverbal elements to sustain audience interest and attention.

Analysis and Evaluation of Oral and Media Characteristics

- 1.8 Analyze the use of rhetorical devices (e.g., cadence, repetitive patterns, use of onomatopoeia) for intent and effect.
- 1.9 **Identify persuasive and propaganda techniques used in television and identify false and misleading information.**
- 1.10 **Weigh media messages against the moral and religious standards of the Catholic Church.**

2.0 Speaking Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics)

Students deliver well-organized formal presentations employing traditional rhetorical strategies (e.g., narration, exposition, persuasion, description). Student speaking demonstrates a command of standard American English and the organizational and delivery strategies outlined in Listening and Speaking Standard 1.0.

Using the speaking strategies of grade six outlined in Listening and Speaking Standard 1.0, students:

2.1 Deliver narrative presentations:

- a. **Establish a context, plot, and point of view.**
- b. **Include sensory details and concrete language to develop the plot and character.**
- c. **Use a range of narrative devices (e.g., dialogue, tension, or suspense).**

2.2 Deliver informative presentations:

- a. **Pose relevant questions sufficiently limited in scope to be completely and thoroughly answered.**
- b. **Develop the topic with facts, details, examples, and explanations from multiple authoritative sources (e.g., speakers, periodicals, online information).**

2.3 Deliver oral responses to literature:

- a. **Develop an interpretation exhibiting careful reading, understanding, and insight.**
- b. **Organize the selected interpretation around several clear ideas, premises, or images.**
- c. **Develop and justify the selected interpretation through sustained use of examples and textual evidence.**

2.4 Deliver persuasive presentations:

- a. **Provide a clear statement of the position.**
- b. **Include relevant evidence.**
- c. **Offer a logical sequence of information.**
- d. **Engage the listener and foster acceptance of the proposition or proposal.**

2.5 Deliver presentations on problems and solutions, including areas of social justice:

- a. **Theorize on the causes and effects of each problem and establish connections between the defined problem and at least one solution.**
- b. **Offer persuasive evidence to validate the definition of the problem and the proposed solutions.**

2.6 Read in Mass or present a Mass reading in class.

LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS

Grade Seven

Reading

1.0 Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development

Students use their knowledge of word origins and word relationships, as well as historical and literary context clues, to determine the meaning of specialized vocabulary and to understand the precise meaning of grade-level-appropriate words.

Vocabulary and Concept Development

1.1 Identify idioms, analogies, metaphors, and similes in prose and poetry.

1.2 Use knowledge of Greek, Latin, and Anglo-Saxon roots and affixed to understand content-area vocabulary.

1.3 Clarify word meanings through the use of definition, example, restatement, or contrast.

2.0 Reading Comprehension (Focus on Informational Materials)

Students read and understand grade-level appropriate material and student Bibles. They describe and connect the essential ideas, arguments, and perspectives of the text by using their knowledge of text structure, organization, and purpose. In addition, by grade eight, students read one million words annually on their own, including a good representation of grade-level-appropriate narrative and expository text (e.g., classic and contemporary literature, magazines, newspapers, online information). In grade seven, students make substantial progress toward this goal.

Structural Features of Informational Materials

2.1 Understand and analyze the differences in structure and purpose between various categories of informational materials (e.g., textbooks, newspapers, instructional manuals, signs).

2.2 Locate information by using a variety of consumer, workplace, and public documents.

2.3 Analyze text that uses the cause-and-effect organizational pattern.

Comprehension and Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text

2.4 Identify and trace the development of an author's argument, point of view, or perspective in text.

2.5 Understand and explain the use of a simple mechanical device by following technical directions.

Expository Critique

2.6 Assess the adequacy, accuracy, and appropriateness of the author's evidence to support claims and assertions, noting instances of bias and stereotyping.

2.7 Possess the ability to locate a particular verse or reading in the Bible, using only chapter number and verse.

2.8 Understand and analyze the differences in structure and purpose between the four gospels and their writers.

3.0 Literary Response and Analysis

Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of literature, including the Bible, that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science. They clarify the ideas and connect them to other literary works.

Structural Features of Literature

3.1 Articulate the expressed purposes and characteristics of different forms of prose (e.g., short story, novel, novella, essay).

Narrative Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text

3.2 Identify events that advance the plot and determine how each event explains past or present action(s) or foreshadows future action(s).

3.3 Analyze characterization as delineated through a character's thoughts, words, speech patterns, and actions; the narrator's description; and the thoughts, words, and actions of other characters.

3.4 Identify and analyze recurring themes across works (e.g., the value of bravery, loyalty, and friendship; the effects of loneliness).

3.5 Contrast points of view (e.g., first and third person, limited and omniscient, subjective and objective) in narrative text and explain how they affect the overall theme of the work.

Literary Criticism

3.6 Analyze a range of responses to a literary work and determine the extent to which the literary elements in the work shaped those responses.

3.7 Interpret the writings of the gospel writers, using specific Bible verses.

Writing

1.0 Writing Strategies

Students write clear, coherent, and focused essays. The writing exhibits students' awareness of the audience and purpose. Essays contain formal introductions, supporting evidence, and conclusions. Students progress through the stages of the writing process as needed.

Organization and Focus

1.1 Create an organizational structure that balances all aspects of the composition and uses effective transitions between sentences to unify important ideas.

1.2 Support all statements and claims with anecdotes, descriptions, facts and statistics, and specific drafts.

1.3 Use strategies of note taking, outlining, and summarizing to impose structure on composition drafts.

Research and Technology

1.4 Identify topics; ask and evaluate questions; and develop ideas leading to inquiry, investigation, and research.

1.5 Give credit for both quoted and paraphrased information in a bibliography by using a consistent and sanctioned format and methodology for citations.

1.6 Create documents by using word-processing skills and publishing programs; develop simple databases and spreadsheets to manage information and prepare reports.

Evaluation and Revision

- 1.7 Revise writing to improve organization and word choice after checking the logic of the ideas and the precision of the vocabulary.**
- 1.8 Research the life of a Biblical figure or saint and use word processing skills to publish the work.**
- 1.9 Write fluidly and legibly in cursive or joined italic.**

2.0 Writing Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics)

Students write narrative, expository, persuasive, and descriptive texts of at least 500 to 700 words in each genre. The writing demonstrates a command of standard American English and the research, organizational, and drafting strategies outlined in Writing Standard 1.0.

Using the writing strategies of grade seven outlined in Writing Standard 1.0, students:

2.1 Write fictional or autobiographical narratives:

- a. Develop a standard plot line (having a beginning, conflict, rising action, climax, and denouement) and point of view.**
- b. Develop complex major and minor characters and a definite setting.**
- c. Use a range of appropriate strategies (e.g., dialogue; suspense; naming of specific narrative action, including movement, gestures, and expressions).**

2.2 Write responses to literature and the Bible:

- a. Develop interpretations exhibiting careful reading, understanding, and insight.**
- b. Organize interpretations around several clear ideas, premises, or images from the literary work.**
- c. Justify interpretations through sustained use of examples and textual evidence.**

2.3 Write research reports:

- a. Pose relevant and tightly drawn questions about the topic.**
- b. Convey clear and accurate perspectives on the subject.**
- c. Include evidence compiled through the formal research process (e.g., use of a card catalog, Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, a computer catalog, magazines, newspapers, dictionaries).**
- d. Document reference sources by means of footnotes and a bibliography.**

2.4 Write persuasive compositions:

- a. State a clear position or perspective in support of a proposition or proposal.**
- b. Describe the points in support of the proposition, employing well-articulated evidence.**
- c. Anticipate and address reader concerns and counter arguments.**

2.5 Write summaries of reading materials:

- a. Include the main ideas and most significant details.**
- b. Use the student's own words, except for quotations.**
- c. Reflect underlying meaning, not just the superficial details.**

2.6 Write a Church petition.

Written and Oral English Language Conventions

The standards for written and oral English language conventions have been placed between those for writing and for listening and speaking because these conventions are essential to both sets of skills.

1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions

Students write and speak with a command of Standard English conventions appropriate to the grade level.

Sentence Structure

1.1 Place modifiers properly and use the active voice.

Grammar

1.2 Identify and use infinitives and participles and make clear references between pronouns and antecedents,

1.3 Identify all parts of speech and types and structure of sentences.

1.4 Demonstrate the mechanics of writing (e.g., quotation marks, commas at end of dependent clauses) and appropriate English usage (e.g., pronoun reference).

Punctuation

1.5 Identify hyphens, dashes, brackets, and semicolons and use them correctly.

Capitalization

1.6 Use correct capitalization.

Spelling

1.7 Spell derivatives correctly by applying the spellings of bases and affixes.

Listening and Speaking

1.0 Listening and Speaking Strategies

Deliver focused, coherent presentations that convey ideas clearly and relate to the background and interests of the audience. Students evaluate the content of oral communication.

Comprehension

1.1 Ask probing questions to elicit information, including evidence to support the speaker's claims and conclusions.

1.2 Determine the speaker's attitude toward the subject.

1.3 Respond to persuasive messages with questions, challenges, or affirmations.

Organization and Delivery of Oral Communication

1.4 Organize information to achieve particular purposes and to appeal to the background and interests of the audience.

1.5 Arrange supporting details, reasons, descriptions, and examples effectively and persuasively in relation to the audience.

1.6 Use speaking techniques, including voice modulation, inflection, tempo, enunciation, and eye contact, for effective presentations.

Analysis and Evaluation of Oral and Media Communication

1.7 Provide constructive feedback to speakers concerning the coherence and logic of a speech's content and delivery and its overall impact upon the listener.

1.8 Analyze the effect on the viewer of images, text, and sound in electronic journalism; identify the techniques used to achieve the effects in each instance studied.

1.9 Weigh media messages against the moral and religious standards of the Catholic Church.

2.0 Speaking Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics)

Students deliver well-organized formal presentations employing traditional rhetorical strategies (e.g., narration, exposition, persuasion, description). Student speaking demonstrates a command of standard American English and the organizational and delivery strategies outlined in Listening and Speaking Standard 1.0.

Using the speaking strategies of grade seven outlined in Listening and Speaking Standard 1.0, students:

2.1 Deliver narrative presentations:

- a. **Establish a context, standard plot line (having a beginning, conflict, rising action, climax, and denouement), and point of view.**
- b. **Describe complex major and minor characters and a definite setting.**
- c. **Use a range of appropriate strategies, including dialogue, suspense, and naming of specific narrative action (e.g., movement, gestures, expressions).**

2.2 Deliver oral summaries of articles and books:

- a. **Include the main ideas of the event or article and the most significant details.**
- b. **Use the student's own words, except for material quoted from sources.**
- c. **Convey a comprehensive understanding of sources, not just superficial details.**

2.3 Deliver research presentations:

- a. **Pose relevant and concise questions about the topic.**
- b. **Convey clear and accurate perspectives on the subject.**
- c. **Include evidence generated through the formal research process (e.g., use of a card catalog, Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, computer databases, magazines, newspapers, dictionaries).**
- d. **Cite reference sources appropriately.**

2.4 Deliver persuasive presentations:

- a. **State a clear position or perspective in support of an argument or proposal.**
- b. **Describe the points in support of the argument and employ well-articulated evidence.**

2.5 Read in Mass or present a Mass reading in class.

2.6 Deliver an oral summary of essays or reports, as they relate to religious figures.

LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS

Grade Eight

Reading

1.0 Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development

Students use their knowledge of word origins and word relationships, as well as historical and literary context clues, to determine the meaning of specialized vocabulary and to understand the precise meaning of grade-level-appropriate words.

Vocabulary and Concept Development

- 1.1 Analyze idioms, analogies, metaphors, and similes to infer the literal and figurative meanings of phrases.
- 1.2 **Understand the most important points in the history of English language and use common word origins to determine the historical influences on English word meanings.**
- 1.3 **Use word meanings within the appropriate context and show ability to verify those meanings by definition, restatement, example, comparison, or contrast.**

2.0 Reading Comprehension (Focus on Informational Materials)

Students read and understand grade-level appropriate material and student Bibles. They describe and connect the essential ideas, arguments, and perspectives of the text by using their knowledge of text structure, organization, and purpose. In addition, by grade eight, students read one million words annually on their own, including a good representation of narrative and expository text (e.g., classic and contemporary literature, magazines, newspapers, online information).

Structural Features of Informational Materials

- 2.1 *Compare and contrast the features and elements of consumer materials to gain meaning from documents (e.g., warranties, contracts, product information, instruction manuals).*
- 2.2 Analyze text that uses proposition and support patterns.

Comprehension and Analysis of Text

- 2.3 Find similarities and differences between texts in the treatment, scope, or organization of ideas.
- 2.4 **Compare the original text to a summary to determine whether the summary accurately captures the main ideas, includes critical details, and conveys the underlying meaning.**
- 2.5 *Understand and explain the use of a complex mechanical device by following technical directions.*
- 2.6 **Use information from a variety of consumer, workplace, and public documents to explain a situation or decision and to solve a problem.**

Expository Critique

- 2.7 **Evaluate the unity, coherence, logic, internal consistency, and structural patterns of text.**

3.0 Literary Response and Analysis

Students read and respond to historically or culturally significant works of literature, including the Bible, that reflect and enhance their studies of history and social science. They clarify the ideas and connect them to other literary works.

Structural Features of Literature

3.1 Determine and articulate the relationship between the purposes and characteristics of different forms of poetry (e.g., ballad, lyric, couplet, epic, elegy, ode, sonnet).

Narrative Analysis of Text

3.2 Evaluate the structural elements of the plot (e.g., subplots, parallel episodes, climax), the plot's development, and the way in which conflicts are (or are not) addressed and resolved.

3.3 Compare and contrast motivations and reactions of literary characters from different historical eras confronting similar situations or conflicts.

3.4 Analyze the relevance of the setting (e.g., place, time, customs) to the mood, tone, and meaning of the text.

3.5 Identify and analyze recurring themes (e.g., good versus evil) across traditional and contemporary works.

3.6 Identify significant literary devices (e.g., metaphor, symbolism, dialect, irony) that define a writer's style and use those elements to interpret the work.

Literary Criticism

3.7 Analyze a work of literature, showing how it reflects the heritage, traditions, attitudes, and beliefs of its author (Biographical approach).

Writing

1.0 Writing Strategies

Students write clear, coherent, and focused essays. The writing exhibits students' awareness of audience and purpose. Essays contain formal introductions, supporting evidence, and conclusions. Students progress through the stages of the writing process as needed.

Organization and Focus

1.1 Create compositions that establish a controlling impression, have a coherent thesis, and end with a clear and well-supported conclusion.

1.2 Establish coherence within and among paragraphs through effective transitions, parallel structures, and similar writing techniques.

1.3 Support theses or conclusions with analogies, paraphrases, quotations, opinions from authorities, comparisons, and similar devices.

Research and Technology

1.4 Plan and conduct multiple-stop information searches by using computer networks and modems.

1.5 Achieve an effective balance between researched information and original ideas.

Evaluation and Revision

1.6 Revise writing for word choice; appropriate organization; consistent point of view; and transitions between paragraphs, passages, and ideas.

1.7 Write fluidly and legibly in cursive or joined italic.

2.0 Writing Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics)

Students write narrative, expository, persuasive, and descriptive essays of at least 500 to 700 words in each genre. Student writing demonstrates a command of standard American English and the research, organizational, and drafting strategies outlined in Writing Standard 1.0.

Using the writing strategies of grade eight outlined in Writing Standard 1.0, students:

- 2.1 Write biographies, autobiographies, short stories, or narratives:**
 - a. Relate a clear, coherent incident, event, or situation by using well-chosen details.**
 - b. Reveal the significance of, or the writer’s attitude about, the subject.**
 - c. Employ narrative and descriptive strategies (e.g., relevant dialogue, specific action, physical description, background description, comparison or contrast of characters).**
- 2.2 Write responses to literature and the Bible:**
 - a. Exhibit careful reading and insight in their interpretations.**
 - b. Connect the student’s own responses to the writer’s techniques and to specific textual references.**
 - c. Draw supported inferences about the effects of a literary work on its audience.**
 - d. Support judgments through references to the text, other works, other authors, or to personal knowledge.**
- 2.3 Write research reports:**
 - a. Define a thesis.**
 - b. Record important ideas, concepts, and direct quotations from significant information sources and paraphrase and summarize all perspectives on the topic, as appropriate.**
 - c. Use a variety of primary and secondary sources and distinguish the nature and value of each.**
 - d. Organize and display information on charts, maps, and graphs.**
- 2.4 Write persuasive compositions:**
 - a. Include a well-defined thesis (i.e., one that makes a clear and knowledgeable judgment).**
 - b. Present detailed evidence, examples, and reasoning to support arguments, differentiating between facts and opinion.**
 - c. Provide details, reasons, and examples, arranging them effectively by anticipating and answering reader concerns and counter-arguments.**
- 2.5 Write documents related to career development, including simple business letters and job applications:**
 - a. Present information purposefully and succinctly and meet the needs of the intended audience.**
 - b. Follow the conventional format for the type of document (e.g., letter of inquiry, memorandum).**
- 2.6 Write technical documents:**
 - a. Identify the sequence of activities needed to design a system, operate a tool, or explain the bylaws of an organization.**
 - b. Include all the factors and variables that need to be considered.**
 - c. Use formatting techniques (e.g., headings, differing fonts) to aid comprehension.**
- 2.7 Write Church petitions.**

Written and Oral English Language Conventions

The standards for written and oral English language conventions have been placed between those for writing and for listening and speaking because these conventions are essential to both sets of skills.

1.0 Written and Oral English Language Conventions

Students write and speak with a command of Standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.

Sentence Structure

- 1.1 Use correct and varied sentence types and sentence openings to present a lively and effective personal style.**
- 1.2 Identify and use parallelism, including similar grammatical forms, in all written discourse to present items in a series and items juxtaposed for emphasis.**
- 1.3 Use subordination, coordination, apposition, and other devices to indicate clearly the relationship between ideas.**

Grammar

- 1.4 Edit written manuscripts to ensure that correct grammar is used.**

Punctuation and Capitalization

- 1.5 Use correct punctuation and capitalization.**

Spelling

- 1.6 Use correct spelling conventions.**

Listening and Speaking

1.0 Listening and Speaking Strategies

Students deliver focused, coherent presentations that convey ideas clearly and relate to the background and interests of the audience. They evaluate the content of oral communication.

Comprehension

- 1.1 Analyze oral interpretations of literature, including language choice and delivery, and the effect of the interpretations on the listener.**
- 1.2 Paraphrase a speaker's purpose and point of view and ask relevant questions concerning the speaker's content, delivery, and purpose.**

Organization and Delivery of Oral Communication

- 1.3 Organize information to achieve particular purposes by matching the message, vocabulary, voice modulation, expression, and tone to the audience and purpose.**
- 1.4 Prepare a speech outline based upon a chosen pattern of organization, which generally includes an introduction; transitions, previews, and summaries; a logically developed body; and an effective conclusion.**
- 1.5 Use precise language, action verbs, sensory details, appropriate and colorful modifiers, and the active rather than the passive voice in ways that enliven oral presentations.**
- 1.6 Use appropriate grammar, word choice, enunciation, and pace during formal presentations.**
- 1.7 Use audience feedback (e.g., verbal and nonverbal clues):**
 - a. Reconsider and modify the organizational structure or plan.**
 - b. Rearrange words and sentences to clarify the meaning.**

Analysis and Evaluation of Communication

- 1.8 Evaluate the credibility of a speaker (e.g., hidden agendas, slanted or biased material).**
- 1.9 Interpret and evaluate the various ways in which visual image-makers (e.g., graphic artists, illustrators, news photographers) communicate information and affect impressions and opinions.**
- 1.10 Weigh media messages against the moral and religious standards of the Catholic Church.**

2.0 Speaking Applications (Genres and Their Characteristics)

Students deliver well-organized formal presentations employing traditional rhetorical strategies (e.g., narration, exposition, persuasion, description). Student speaking demonstrates a command of standard American English and the organizational and delivery strategies outlined in Listening and Speaking Standard 1.0.

Using the speaking strategies of grade eight outlined in Listening and Speaking Standard 1.0, students:

2.1 Deliver narrative presentations (e.g., biographical, autobiographical):

- a. Relate a clear, coherent incident, event, or situation by using well-chosen details.**
- b. Reveal the significance of, and the subject's attitude about, the incident, event, or situation.**
- c. Employ narrative and descriptive strategies (e.g., relevant dialogue, specific actions, physical description, background description, comparison or contrast of characters).**

2.2 Deliver oral responses to literature:

- a. Interpret a reading and provide insight.**
- b. Connect the students' own responses to the writer's techniques and to specific textual references.**
- c. Draw supported inferences about the effects of a literary work on its audience.**
- d. Support judgments through references to the text, other works, other authors, or personal knowledge.**

2.3 Deliver research presentations:

- a. Define a thesis.**
- b. Record important ideas, concepts, and direct quotations from significant information sources and paraphrase and summarize all relevant perspectives on the topic, as appropriate.**
- c. Use a variety of primary and secondary sources and distinguish the nature and value of each.**
- d. Organize and record information on charts, maps, and graphs.**

2.4 Deliver persuasive presentations:

- a. Include a well-defined thesis (i.e., one that makes a clear and knowledgeable judgment).**
- b. Differentiate fact from opinion and support arguments with detailed evidence, examples, and reasoning.**
- c. Anticipate and answer listener concerns and counter-arguments effectively through the inclusion and arrangement of details, reasons, examples, and other elements.**
- d. Maintain a reasonable tone.**

2.5 Recite poems (of four to six stanzas), sections of speeches, or dramatic soliloquies, using voice modulation, tone, and gestures expressively to enhance the meaning.

2.6 Read in Mass or present a Mass reading in class.