



WWPS Promise Standards K-12 Language Arts

In Walla Walla Public Schools, we operate in an aligned and coherent system. This means students will receive access to the same promise standards no matter which school they attend. During the school year of 2022-23, K-12 teachers came together to identify 8-12 promise standards per grade level to ensure consistency across schools, and to ensure all students progress to the next level with the same foundation of skills. This document summarizes the standards for which all students will receive instruction, and additional support to achieve proficiency. The color coding indicates similar domains across grade levels to see how skills progress.

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

Kindergarten

- Recognize and name all upper and lowercase letters of the alphabet
- Recognize and produce rhyming words.
- Count, pronounce, blend, and segment syllables in spoken words.
- Isolate and pronounce the initial, medial vowel, and final sounds (phonemes) in three-phoneme (consonant-vowel-consonant, or CVC) words.
- Add or substitute individual sounds (phonemes) in simple, one-syllable words to make new words.
- 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.
- Associate the long and short sounds with common spellings (graphemes) for the five major vowels.
- Read emergent-reader texts with purpose and understanding.
- Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events, tell about the events in the order in which they occurred, and provide a reaction to what happened.
- With prompting and support, ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- Write a letter or letters for most consonant and short-vowel sounds (phonemes).
- Spell simple words phonetically, drawing on knowledge of sound letter relationships.

First Grade

- Orally produce single-syllable words by blending sounds (phonemes), including consonant blends.
- Segment spoken single-syllable words into their complete sequence of individual sounds.
- Know the spelling-sound correspondences for common consonant digraphs.
- Decode regularly spelled one-syllable words.
- Know final -e and common vowel team conventions for representing long vowel sounds.
- Recognize and read grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words.
- Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
- Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.
- Ask and answer questions about key details in a text
- Spell untaught words phonetically, drawing on phonemic awareness and spelling conventions.
- Produce complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation.

Second Grade

- Distinguish long and short vowels when reading regularly spelled one-syllable words.
- Decode regularly spelled two-syllable words with long vowels.
- Decode words with common prefixes and suffixes.
- Recognize and read grade-appropriate irregularly spelled words.
- Read grade-level text orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression on successive readings.
- Ask and answer such questions as who, what, where, when, why, and how to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text.
- Describe the overall structure of a story, including describing how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the action.
- Describe the connection between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text.
- Know and use various text features (e.g., captions, bold print, sub-headings, glossaries, indexes, electronic menus, icons) to locate key facts or information in a text efficiently.
- Compare and contrast the most important points presented by two texts on the same topic.
- Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section.
- Produce complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation in order to provide requested detail or clarification
- Produce, expand, and rearrange complete simple and compound sentences (e.g., The boy watched the movie; The little boy watched the movie; The action movie was watched by the little boy).
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Third Grade

- Know and apply grade level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
- Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
- Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.
- Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.
- Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
- Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.
- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
- Introduce a topic and group related information together; include illustrations when useful to aiding comprehension.
- Use linking words and phrases (e.g., also, another, and, more, but) to connect ideas within categories of information.
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.

Fourth Grade

- Use combined knowledge of all letter sound correspondences, syllabication patterns, and morphology (e.g., roots and affixes) to read accurately unfamiliar multisyllabic words in context and out of context.
- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
- Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions)
- Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.
- Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.
- Introduce a topic clearly and group related information in paragraphs and sections; include formatting (e.g., headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
- Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.
- Use commas and quotation marks to mark direct speech and quotations from a text.
- Use common, grade-appropriate Greek and Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., telegraph, photograph, autograph).

Fifth Grade

- Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative language such as metaphors and similes.
- Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text. (Informational)
- Compare and contrast the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in two or more texts.
- Integrate information from several texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
- Use verb tense to convey various times, sequences, states, and conditions.
- Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense

Sixth Grade

- Cite text evidence to support analysis of text; draw inferences.
- Determine a theme of text; write an objective summary .
- Determine the meaning of specific words/phrases; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.
- Cite text evidence to support analysis of text; draw inferences.
- Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not.
- Support claim(s) with clear reasons and relevant evidence, using credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
- Introduce a topic; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
- Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses.
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

Seventh Grade

- Determine a theme or central idea of a text; provide an objective summary of the text.
- Analyze how particular elements of a story or drama interact.
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text.
- Cite several pieces of textual evidence to support analysis.
- Analyze the structure an author uses to organize a text.
- Introduce claim(s), acknowledge alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.
- Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion and clarity.
- Provide a concluding section that supports the info presented.
- Develop and strengthen writing by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
- Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; quote and paraphrase while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

Eighth Grade

- Cite textual evidence to support analysis of text.
- Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (e.g., print or digital text, video, multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea.
- Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient; recognize when irrelevant evidence is introduced.
- Support claims with reasoning and relevant evidence.
- Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarity among reasons and evidence.
- Introduce the topic clearly; organize information into broader categories; include formatting and multimedia.
- Develop and strengthen writing by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach .
- Come to discussions prepared, having read or researched material under study
- Use context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase
- Use common, grade-appropriate Greek/Latin affixes/roots as clues to the meaning of a word

Ninth Grade

- Cite textual evidence to support analysis/inferences of text.
- Determine theme/central idea of text; write an objective summary .
- Analyze how complex characters develop, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme.
- Introduce the topic clearly; organize complex ideas/info to make connections and distinctions; include formatting and multimedia.
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task/purpose/audience.
- Develop and strengthen writing by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach
- Come to discussions prepared, having read or researched material under study; stimulate thoughtful exchange of ideas.
- Present information/findings/supporting evidence clearly/ concisely/logically and the organization, development, substance, and style are appropriate to purpose, audience, and task.
- Write and edit work so that it conforms in the guidelines in a style manual appropriate for the discipline and writing type.

Tenth Grade

- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in the text, including figurative and connotative meanings.
- Cite textual evidence to support analysis/inferences of text.
- Analyze how an author's ideas/claims are developed/refined by particular sentences, paragraphs, or larger portions of a text
- Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text and analyze how an author uses rhetoric.
- Analyze various accounts of a subject told in different mediums (e.g., a person's life story in both print and multimedia), determining which details are emphasized in each account.
- Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text; identify false statements and fallacious reasoning.
- Introduce precise claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create an organization that establishes clear relationships among claim(s), counterclaims, reasons, and evidence.
- Establish and maintain a formal style and objective tone
- Develop and strengthen writing by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
- Gather relevant information from multiple print/digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess source usefulness; integrate info while avoiding plagiarism & following standard format for citation
- Use various types of phrases (noun, verb, adjectival, adverbial, participial, prepositional, absolute) and clauses (independent, dependent; noun, relative, adverbial) to convey specific meanings and add variety and interest to writing or presentations.

Eleventh Grade

- Determine two or more themes or central ideas of a text and analyze their development over the course of the text, including how they interact and build on one another to produce a complex account; provide an objective summary of the text.
- Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure specific parts of a text contribute to its overall structure and meaning as well as its aesthetic impact.
- Analyze and evaluate the effectiveness of the structure an author uses in his or her exposition or argument, including whether the structure makes points clear, convincing, and engaging.
- Introduce precise, knowledgeable claim(s), establish the significance of the claim(s), distinguish the claim(s) from alternate or opposing claims, and create a logically sequenced organization
- Develop topic w/ significant/relevant/sufficient facts/details.
- Use appropriate and varied transitions and syntax to link sections.
- Gather relevant information from multiple print/digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess source usefulness; integrate info while avoiding plagiarism & following standard format for citation.
- Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric, assessing the stance, premises, links among ideas, word choice, points of emphasis, and tone used.
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

Twelfth Grade

- Analyze the impact of the author's choices regarding how to develop and relate elements of a story or drama.
- Analyze a case in which grasping a point of view requires distinguishing what is directly stated in a text from what is really meant.
- Analyze a complex set of ideas or sequence of events and explain how they develop over the course of the text.
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze how an author uses and refines the meaning of a key term or terms over the course of a text (e.g., how Madison defines faction in Federalist No. 10).
- Determine an author's point of view or purpose in a text
- Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats.
- Develop claim(s) and counterclaims fairly, supply evidence
- Engage/orient the reader by setting out a problem/situation/observation, establishing pov, and introducing a narrator and/or characters; create a smooth progression of experiences or events .
- Develop and strengthen writing by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach
- Gather relevant information from multiple print/digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess source usefulness; integrate info while avoiding plagiarism & following standard format for citation
- Integrate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media in order to make informed decisions and solve problems, evaluating the credibility and accuracy of each source and noting any discrepancies among the data.
- Resolve issues of complex or contested usage, consulting references as needed.
- Acquire/use accurately grade-appropriate academic and domain-specific words/phrases at the college/career readiness level.