



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown Elementary Curriculum

Language Arts PK-8th Grade

PK-3	PK-4
<p>Reading Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recognize their name in print• Identify specific pictures• Select independently a book that interests them• Identify their name in various print situations (handwritten, typed, etc)• Identify the main character in a story <p>Writing Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use writing tools, crayons, and markers for expression• Use art media, for example, finger paint, play dough, and shaving cream, to develop fine motor skills• Develop awareness of the alphabet• Demonstrate the ability to trace their first name <p>Oral Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop their vocabulary and verbalize their needs• Develop good manners when speaking• Participate cooperatively with others in group activities• Develop their vocabulary and verbalize their needs• Recite familiar short poems, rhymes, and songs <p>Listening Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow simple, one-step direction• Listen attentively during a short group activity• Complete a simple task by following directions• Sit in circle time	<p>Reading Readiness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Respond orally to simple questions about the story• Select visually uppercase and lowercase letters• Identity the different characters in the story• Retell stories in their own words• Make predictions• Incorporate known vocabulary in discussions <p>Writing Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use symbols or drawings to express thought, feelings, and ideas• Attempt to draw a self-portrait• Exposure to and awareness of holding a pencil or other writing implements, and scissors• Print or copy their first names using letters or letter-like approximations• Form letters using whiteboards and skywriting and various tactile experiences <p>Oral Communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repeat and recite poems, rhymes, and songs• Use age appropriate vocabulary• Use complete sentences• Communicate in one-to-one and group conversations <p>Listening Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow simple one-step and two-step directions• Follow directions such as taking turns, staying on topic, and eye contact• Sit in circle time



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KINDERGARTEN

Phonemic Awareness/Phonics

- Recognize that both print and pictures tell a story and describe the relationship between the two
- Track printed words from left to right, top to bottom and page by page, demonstrating one-to-one correspondence
- Use consonant sounds with short vowel sounds to decode Consonant-Vowel-Consonant (CVC) words
- Identify and produce initial, medial and ending sounds of Consonant-Vowel-Consonant-E (CVCE) words for all five short and long vowels

Vocabulary

- Recognize and know high frequency words taught in context
- Use common words in basic categories to describe ideas, feelings and experiences
- Use the most frequently occurring inflections and affixes as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word (e.g., -ed, -s, re-, un-, pre-, -ful, -less)
- Build sight word vocabulary

Fluency

- Read decodable texts to practice and gain fluency and understanding
- Read or sing along with correct expression and pace in books, rhymes and songs

Reading Comprehension

- Retell stories to sequence events and identify main ideas and details
- Identify parts of a text that seem important, including characters, settings and major events in a story.
- Make predictions about what may happen next
- Answer literal and easy inferential questions about texts and read-aloud
- Use pre-reading strategies such as connecting, picturing, noticing, guessing, wondering, and figuring out

Listening and Speaking

- Participate in group discussions and take turns during conversations
- Verbally share information and ideas in complete sentences
- Listen to and respect the opinions of others about written, oral and visual texts
- Use appropriate language and vocabulary to describe ideas, feelings and experiences in a logical sequence
- Demonstrate knowledge of proper English in speaking and writing (eg., question words, plural nouns, prepositional phrases)

Writing

- Listen to or read a variety of genres to use as models for writing in different modes
- Narrative: Draw and write in journals about a day's events
- Descriptive: Use pictures and letters/words to describe a topic, idea or event
- Recognize and use periods, question marks and exclamation points
- Use uppercase letters to begin sentences, names and the word "I"
- Use inventive spelling but with knowledge of conventional spelling
- Use letters in writing to represent sounds and words

Handwriting

- Demonstrate proper pencil grasp
- Write continuously left to right
- Print legibly attending to size, spacing, formation, and uppercase and lowercase letters
- Create numbers 1-10 by using a series of continuous strokes



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FIRST GRADE

Phonemic Awareness/Phonics

- Recognize the sounds of consonant digraphs: sh, ch, th, wh, ck, kn, and wr
- Locate prefixes and suffixes and identify the base word
- Recall sounds in consonant clusters
- Identify vowel pairs and vowel digraphs that make long vowel sounds
- Determine the meaning of a new word formed when a known prefix is added to a known word

Vocabulary

- Use sentence level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase
- Explain multiple meanings of common words
- Recall and use content-specific vocabulary

Reading

- Draw upon prior knowledge to aid in comprehension
- Identify the main idea and author's purpose
- Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges
- Compare and contrast two or more versions of the same story
- Ask and answer questions about what a speaker says in order to clarify comprehension, gather additional information or deepen understanding of a topic or issue
- Recognize statements as fact or opinion
- Identify the main topic of a multi-paragraph text as well as the focus of specific paragraphs within a text
- Summarize stories in writing

Spelling

- Categorize a list of words into alphabetical order
- Spell common vowel patterns
- Spell common irregular words

Fluency

- Read aloud in small groups, whole class, and individually
- Refine decoding skills to build speed, expression, and confidence
- Read on-level text orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression on successive readings

Speaking and Listening

- Listen for specific information in order to respond to questions appropriately
- Develop oral speaking skills through discussion, conversation, storytelling, dramatization and choral reading

Writing

- Recognize and create stories with a beginning, middle, and end
- Edit and revise draft of a story
- Participate in shared research and writing project
- Plan and develop ideas using a graphic organizer
- Write one or more detailed paragraphs for a descriptive writing piece

Grammar

- Recognize that a sentence is a complete thought, begins with a capital letter, and ends with an end mark
- Differentiate between the four types of sentences: telling, asking, commands, and exclamations
- Recognize nouns, verbs, and adjectives in a sentence

Handwriting

- Practice formation of lowercase and uppercase words and numerals.
- Construct words and sentences using proper shape, size, slant, and spacing



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SECOND GRADE

Phonemic Awareness/Phonics

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- Locate prefixes and suffixes and identify the base word
- Recall sounds in consonant clusters
- Identify vowel pairs and vowel digraphs that make long vowel sounds
- Determine the meaning of a new word formed when a known prefix is added to a known word

Vocabulary

- Use sentence level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase
- Explain multiple meanings of common words
- Recall and use content-specific vocabulary

Reading

- Draw upon prior knowledge to aid in comprehension
- Identify the main idea and author's purpose
- Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges
- Compare and contrast two or more versions of the same story
- Ask and answer questions about what a speaker says in order to clarify comprehension, gather additional information or deepen understanding of a topic or issue
- Recognize statements as fact or opinion
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Spelling

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Fluency

- Read aloud in small groups, whole class, and individually
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Speaking and Listening

- Listen for specific information in order to respond to questions appropriately
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Writing

- Recognize and create stories with a beginning, middle, and end
- Edit and revise draft of a story
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Grammar

- Recognize that a sentence is a complete thought, begins with a capital letter, and ends with an end mark
- Differentiate between the four types of sentences: telling, asking, commands, and exclamations
- Recognize nouns, verbs, and adjectives in a sentence

Handwriting

- Practice formation of lowercase and uppercase words and numerals.
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THIRD GRADE

Phonemic Awareness/Phonics

- Decode multi-syllable words
- Use prefixes, suffixes, and affixes to form new words
- Identify base words and use those words to form compound words
- Identify and correctly form contractions

Vocabulary

- Use context clues to determine meaning
- Understand the meaning of new words
- Incorporate vocabulary in writing and speaking
- Understand and utilize high frequency words in reading and writing

Reading

- Determine main idea and state supporting details
- Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, feelings)
- Explain how actions contribute to the sequence of events
- Compare and contrast: text, characters, life experiences, themes, settings, and same/different authors
- Demonstrate ability to summarize, sequence or retell events from text
- Justify inferences by citing evidence from text
- Determine the theme of story
- Describe logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs in a text (e.g., comparison, cause/effect, sequencing)

Spelling

- Name and spell words with short and long vowels and vowel pairs
- Name and spell words with consonants, digraphs, clusters and schwa sound
- Apply spelling rules to contractions, plurals, compound words and words with suffixes

Fluency

- Demonstrate increased fluency by reading silently and reading aloud
- Refine decoding skills to build speed, expression, and confidence

Speaking and Listening

- Present ideas with clarity, voice and fluency to communicate message
- Express main idea and elaborate with supporting details
- Sequence ideas logically with effective transition words
- Demonstrate listening through proper responses to questions/commands
- Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, groups, teacher led)

Writing

- Construct a paragraph using: beginning sentence, supporting details, ending sentence
- Establish plot, characters, and sequence
- Write narratives to express real or imagined experiences
- Gather information from print and digital sources
- Use facts to present information about a given topic

Usage, Grammar and Mechanics

- Utilize proper sentence structure and mechanics
- Identify and write different types of sentences: statements, questions, commands, exclamations
- Use correct noun form in sentences
- Produce simple, compound, and complex sentences

Handwriting

- Apply handwriting mechanics to lowercase and uppercase letters
- Write sentences in cursive



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FOURTH GRADE

Vocabulary and Phonemic Awareness

- Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text
- Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a grade-level topic or subject area
- Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade-level reading and content, choosing from a range of strategies

Reading

- Draw upon prior knowledge to determine a purpose for reading
- By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry
- Compare and contrast the treatment of similar themes and topics (e.g., opposition of good and evil) and patterns of events (e.g., the quest)
- Describe the overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in a text or part of a text
- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details
- Summarize the text using details from within
- Make and confirm predictions based on explicit and/or implicit information
- Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding
- Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary

Spelling

- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing

Fluency

- Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension
- Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words
- 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

Speaking and Listening

- Speak with coherence and clarity to communicate ideas
- Take part in oral presentations that show appropriate consideration of audience, purpose, and information
- Speak with coherence and clarity to communicate ideas
- Choose and apply appropriate tone, word choice, pitch, and non-verbal cues to convey meaning

Writing

- With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach
- Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic
- Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience

Usage, Grammar and Mechanics

- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings

Handwriting

- Refine formation and letter connections



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FIFTH GRADE

Vocabulary and Phonemic Awareness

- Use word origins to determine the meaning of unknown words
- Use appropriate vocabulary for various settings
- Apply prior knowledge and utilize context clues and graphic features to predict, clarify, and/or expand word meanings and concepts

Reading

- Use word analysis skills to accurately decode unfamiliar words in text
- Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension
- Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text
- Analyze multiple accounts of the same event or topic noting important similarities and differences in the point of view they represent
- Read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 4–5 text complexity band independently and proficiently
- Read and comprehend a variety of genres independently

Writing

- Apply the writing process: brainstorming, drafting, revising, editing, publishing
- Write full paragraphs featuring main idea with elaborating details
- Write effective lead and closing sentences
- Convey ideas and information clearly, develop the topic, link ideas within and across categories of information, provide a concluding statement
- Write narrative, expository, and opinion pieces
- Cite sources in research using a bibliographic format

Fluency

- Read on-level text with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression on successive readings
- Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary

Usage, Grammar and Mechanics

- Use capitalization, punctuation, and usage rules appropriate to grade
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar in written and spoken forms
- Change the tense and form of a word correctly depending on its use
- Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings
- Use dictionaries, thesauruses, and glossaries to find and confirm word meanings, pronunciations, syllabication, antonyms and parts of speech

Speaking and Listening

- Contribute individual ideas in group discussions
- Compose questions, listen to the ideas of others, and contribute information and ideas in group discussions
- Create oral presentations that show knowledge of audience, purpose, and information (i.e., liturgies, reading, creative essays, etc.)
- Take part in oral presentations that show appropriate consideration of audience and purpose
- Include diverse media in presentations to enhance the main idea
- Speak with coherence and clarity to communicate ideas

Handwriting

- Continue to use proper cursive and printing for all written expression
- Use full header to label all written assignments



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SIXTH GRADE

Reading

- Determine the central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details
- Analyze character using supporting details from text to determine how major and minor characters change over time
- Apply the elements of characterization in a description of character development
- Define the parts of plot (rising action, climax, falling action, resolution) and analyze the plots of various short stories and novels
- Determine point of view and interpret how a story would change if the point of view changed
- Determine and demonstrate the use of internal and external conflict in written text
- Apply active reading comprehension strategies to aid in the understanding of grade-appropriate literary texts
- Read and comprehend literary nonfiction and informational text on grade level

Writing

- Develop skills to persuade listeners about judgments and opinions of literature text
- Demonstrate the knowledge of modes of writing: descriptive, persuasive, poetic, and letter writing
- Practice summarizing information and drawing conclusions that distinguish between fact and fiction text
- Use appropriate and formal sentence patterns in oral and written skills
- Understand and demonstrate complete mastery of the difference between plagiarism and paraphrasing
- Create paragraphs with proper structure: including topic sentences and details to support them
- Master the ability to write a research paper using proper research skills and MLA style reporting

Vocabulary and Phonemic Awareness

- Use word origins to determine the meaning of unknown words
- Recognize prefixes/suffixes and their meanings
- Apply prior knowledge and utilize context clues and graphic features to predict, clarify, and/or expand word meanings and concepts
- Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade-level reading and content

Usage, Grammar and Mechanics

- Demonstrate the relationship between subject-verb agreement
- Develop an understanding of the parts of speech
- Use knowledge of parts of speech to expand sentences
- Independently select or identify the appropriate mode of technology to support and complement assignment/project
- Demonstrate a command of the conventions of standard English when speaking based on grade-level and content

Speaking and Listening

- Demonstrate control of spoken language by adjusting speech to varying contexts and tasks
- Identify and agree upon a group's purpose/goal and deadlines and organize the group by assuming specific roles as needed
- Apply critical listening strategies to determine the speaker's argument and claims
- Take purposeful notes in preparation for discussion, using highlighting, outlines, journals, as well as other techniques

Study Skills

- Set long and short term goals for learning
- Schedule study time into each day
- Employ organizational skills to improve efficiency and comprehension
- Employ various study methods such as outlining, summarizing, and graphic organizing



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SEVENTH GRADE

Reading

- Identify the major actions that define the plot
- Explain the similarities and differences in how an idea or concept is expressed in multiple texts
- Respond to literal and inferential questions with explicit and implicit evidence from the text
- Summarize information including introduction and closing statements, main idea, most important supporting text-based facts, details and/or ideas, connections between the key ideas, and in one's own words
- State both literal and/or inferred main ideas
- Evaluate the credibility, accuracy, and bias of informational text including Internet sites
- Interpret how situations, actions and other characters influence a character's personality and development
- Recognize character types: protagonist, antagonist, stock, stereotype, etc.
- Recognize exposition, rising action, climax, falling action

Writing

- Construct an informational piece using different strategies (definition, cause/effect, compare/contrast, charts, graphs)
- Expand upon a main idea using factual details and support from the text, including direct quotations
- Craft a conclusion that summarizes the text
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences
- Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events
- Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation

Vocabulary and Phonemic Awareness

- Use word origins to determine the meaning of unknown words
- Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases
- Apply new vocabulary to written and oral expression
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade-level reading and content
- Employ content vocabulary
- Recognize how words are analyzed for decoding and understanding

Usage, Grammar and Mechanics

- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking
- Choose among simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas

Speaking and Listening

- Analyze the main ideas and supporting details presented in diverse media formats
- Present claims and findings emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with pertinent descriptions, facts, details, and examples; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation

Study Skills

- Set long and short term goals for learning
- Schedule study time into each day
- Develop effective note-taking skills
- Employ organizational skills to improve efficiency and comprehension
- Employ various study methods such as outlining, summarizing, and graphic organizing



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EIGHTH GRADE

Reading

- Infer from text; interpret and paraphrase text
- Surmise author's purpose and point of view
- Use prior knowledge before, during, and after reading to construct meaning
- Explain and describe plot summary structure: exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution
- Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas
- Read and comprehend literary nonfiction and informational text on grade level, reading and proofreading
- Determine purpose, point of view and audience to deliver writer's message
- Make and support judgments about genres as they apply to text

Writing

- Prewriting/Plan: gather information using a variety of organizers (ex: webs, lists, free-writing) from a range of resources to analyze, synthesize, and/or evaluate information to plan writing
- Draft: write text, reread, and continue to draft over time
- Revise: seek and consider feedback from adults and peers to revise text for content, organization, and tone
- Self / Peer Edit: use multiple resources, e.g., dictionary, glossary, thesaurus, for proofreading and editing
- Publish/Present: publish and present final products using a range of graphics and illustrative material, e.g., photos, diagrams, threefold display, informational posters
- Organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically using a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence, signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another and show the relationships among experiences and events
- Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events

Vocabulary and Phonemic Awareness

- Use word origins to determine the meaning of unknown words
- Recognize prefixes/suffixes and their meanings
- Utilize dictionaries, thesauruses, and glossaries to find or confirm word meanings
- Apply prior knowledge; utilize context clues and graphic features to predict, clarify, and/or expand word meanings and concepts
- Utilize vocabulary in personal writing and speaking
- Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade-level reading and content

Usage, Grammar and Mechanics

- Demonstrate with proficiency the proper use of grammar, mechanics, and usage in writing and speaking
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing

Speaking and Listening

- Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to add interest, clarify information and strengthen claims and evidence
- Speak with coherence and clarity to communicate ideas
- Pose relevant questions
- Choose and apply appropriate tone, word choice, pitch, and non-verbal cues to convey meaning

Study Skills

- Set long and short term goals for learning
- Schedule study time into each day
- Develop effective note-taking skills
- Employ organizational skills to improve efficiency and comprehension
- Employ various study methods such as outlining, summarizing, and graphic organizing



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All standards are derived from the following public resources:

- ❖ [Pennsylvania State Board of Education--Academic Standards for English Language Arts Grades Pre K-5](#)
- ❖ [Pennsylvania State Board of Education--Academic Standards for English Language Arts Grades 6-12](#)