

**Language Arts Curriculum
South Atlantic District
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod**

Language is a gift of God. Through the written and spoken word our gracious Lord imparts to us the saving message of His Gospel. Communication skills are necessary for leading productive lives as informed citizens in society. The language arts are vital in the early years of a formal educational program as they provide the foundation for future learning.

The goals of this language arts curriculum seek to have the students develop:

- Speaking and writing skills to share the message of God's Word and secular knowledge with others.
- Listening and reading skills that provide the basis for future learning.
- The desire and habit to read Scripture for spiritual growth and other literature for personal enrichment.
- Christian judgment to be used in the selection of reading materials.

Kindergarten through Grade 2

Reading

The student will:

- Recognize and name the alphabet.
- Recognize and practice consonant, short vowel sounds, simple digraphs, beginning and ending sounds, long vowel sounds, blends, vowel patterns.
- Memorize 100 sight words.
- Identify base words and some prefixes and suffixes.
- Begin recognition of word families.
- Daily practice reading for a minimum of 10 minutes each school day.
- Develop and use appropriate vocabulary in multi-subject areas.
- Exhibit fluency in oral reading skills by using correct inflection and pause associated with end punctuation marks.
- Use various comprehension strategies such as predicting outcomes, KWL charts, context clues, and VENN diagrams.
- Discuss what is read through teacher and student shared activities, and oral story sequencing.
- Appreciate the differences among various genre of literature--fiction, nonfiction, and poetry.

- View themselves as independent readers at their own chosen level.

Writing

The student will:

- Identify and write declarative and interrogative sentences.
- Identify the complete subject and predicate of a sentence.
- Write a simple sentence using correct punctuation and capitalization.
- Distinguish the difference between nouns, verbs, and pronouns.
- Correctly utilize periods, question marks, and exclamation points in grade level sentences.
- Capitalize first letter of a sentence, names, proper nouns: first/last name, days of week, months, holidays, countries, cities, states, etc.
- Utilize commas in dates, friendly letters, addresses, and simple sequencing in sentences.
- Write a clear topic sentence.
- Write simple narrative and expository paragraphs.
- Write simple poems using rhymes.
- Spell some sight words, rhyming words, vocabulary, and spelling list words.
- Write manuscript and beginning cursive legibly.

Speaking

The student will:

- Memorize and recite key Bible passages at home and school.
- Defend God-pleasing decisions.
- Witness faith by sharing Bible passages and stories.
- Conduct simple interviews (Example—family history).
- Share information about stories through projects, written form.
- Present short reports on a variety of subjects.
- Read aloud personal creative writing (poems, etc.).
- Demonstrate friendly social skills such as introductions, telephone skills, and good manners.
- Confidently share personal knowledge and experiences in front of others (Ex. Show and tell).
- Speak clearly and effectively in front of a public audience (Ex. – plays, Christmas service).

Listening

The student will:

- Demonstrate good listening skills through maintaining eye contact, proper posture, and quiet attention.
- Contribute verbally and non-verbally to class discussion.
- Follow two-step directions.
- Respond to auditory questions by using pictures or words.

Grades 3-5

*The student will review and build on what was mastered and introduced in the previous level.

Reading

The student will:

- Read at or above grade level.
- Identify 10 prefixes and 10 suffixes.
- Pronounce words with diphthongs correctly.
- Recall information read silently.
- Report aloud information read silently.
- Define vocabulary found in age-appropriate literature.
- Comprehend vocabulary found in age-appropriate literature.
- Exhibit fluency using age-appropriate literature.
- Read aloud with correct inflection and pause associated with end punctuation marks.
- Demonstrate comprehension through oral reading.
- Identify and apply various comprehension strategies including:
 - Cause and effect
 - Classification
 - Fact and opinion
 - Problem and solution
 - Mental imagery
 - Vocabulary skills
- Distinguish different genre of literature:
 - Fiction
 - Nonfiction
 - Poetry
- Identify and define various elements of literature:
 - Plot
 - Setting
 - Characterization

- Point of view

Writing

The student will:

- Construct simple prayers.
- Express faith in clear writing.
- Identify and construct the four types of sentences with correct end marks:
 - Declarative
 - Imperative
 - Interrogative
 - Exclamatory
- Identify and construct simple and compound subject and verbs.
- Identify and construct simple and compound sentences.
- Identify and correct fragments and run-ons.
- Identify common, proper, singular, and plural nouns in a sentence.
- Classify nouns as subjects and direct objects.
- Construct sentences properly using nouns as subjects and direct objects.
- Identify verbs in a sentence.
- Classify verbs in a sentence as action, linking, or helping verbs.
- Construct sentences properly using verbs as action, linking, or helping verbs.
- Identify pronouns in a sentence.
- Classify pronouns as subject, object, possessive, singular, or plural.
- Construct sentences properly using pronouns.
- Identify adjectives in a sentence.
- Classify “a, and, the” as article adjectives.
- Construct sentences properly using adjectives.
- Use capital letters when writing proper nouns.
- Use commas in dates, addresses, and series properly.
- Apply apostrophes properly in contractions.
- Identify and define the steps of the writing process.

- Assemble a four to five sentence simple descriptive paragraph.
- Assemble a four to five sentence simple expository paragraph.
- Assemble a four to five sentence simple narrative paragraph.
- Compose creative poetry.
- Recognize and implement legible cursive writing.

Speaking

The student will:

- Demonstrate the ability to pray from the heart aloud.
- Demonstrate public speaking skills using the following venues:
 - Role playing
 - Oral book reports
 - Short reports
- Share personal creative writing in a group.
- Ask and answer questions orally to adults and peers.
- Demonstrate the following speaking skills in any setting:
 - Eye contact
 - Posture
 - Volume
 - Pace
 - Clarity
- Defend a position orally.

Listening

The student will:

- Apply proper listening skills when given oral multi-step directions.
- Recall the main idea and sequence of an oral presentation.
- Demonstrate proper listening skills by discussing and paraphrasing an oral presentation.

Grades 6 – 8

*The student will review and build on what was mastered and introduced in the previous levels.

Reading

The student will:

- Use Scripture to discern appropriate and inappropriate literature.
- Be proficient at both oral and silent reading.
- Continue to develop his/her vocabulary base including synonyms, antonyms, homophones, homographs, and homonyms.
- Appreciate the differences among various genre of literature—realistic fiction, historical fiction, science fiction, fantasy, biography, expository, classical, lyrical poems, ballads, narrative poems, haiku.
- Study the different forms of literature—novel, short story, drama, poetry.
- Use various comprehension strategies—compare and contrast, summarization, main idea and supporting details, sequence of events, generalization, drawing conclusions, figurative language, note taking and outlining, reference material skills, and vocabulary skills.
- Gain an understanding of the various elements of literature—theme, conflict, mood, purpose, and bias.
- Be an independent, lifelong reader.

Writing

The student will:

- Use complex sentences.
- Identify prepositional phrases.
- Use prepositional phrases effectively.
- Identify subordinate and independent clauses.
- Use subordinate and independent clauses effectively.

- Be fluent in word usage pertaining to the eight parts of speech – nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, interjections, and conjunctions.
- Use proper mechanics in writing.
- Complete and comprehend analogies.
- Compose creative, original works of poetry and persuasive writing.
- Use resource materials to locate pertinent information on a given topic.
- Synthesize information in a basic research paper.
- Write effectively for various purposes.

Speaking

The student will:

- Provide applicable Scripture passages to a given situation.
- Lead a classroom devotion.
- Speak effectively in front of a group using appropriate volume, inflection, pacing, enunciation, and pronunciation.
- Deliver a prepared persuasive speech.

Listening

The student will:

- Exhibit respectful active listening skills by maintaining eye contact, appropriate posture, listening with quiet attention and providing verbal and nonverbal feedback.
- Rephrase main points to check understanding.
- Follow multi-step directions.
- Take accurate and concise notes from an oral presentation.
- Paraphrase material presented in an oral presentation.
- Discuss material presented in an oral presentation.