

Mt. Calvary-Grace Lutheran School

Language Arts Curriculum Guide

Reading & Literature, Listening & Speaking, Writing & Spelling,
Grammar & Language Usage

Philosophy of Language Arts

A Christian seeks to shape all phases of communication to the service and glory of God. Jesus told us in Matthew 18:19 "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded." Being able to effectively use the tools of language to communicate the Gospel of Jesus Christ is our primary goal. We listen and read in order to learn God's message of salvation, and we speak and write in order to tell others of God's plan of salvation.

General Objectives for Language Arts

- Read the Scriptures for inspiration, edification, and instruction.
- Communicate to spread God's Word and serve others.
- Develop and reinforce skills in effective listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- Evaluate what is communicated in the world according to God's Word.
- Foster reading in the content areas.
- Enjoy of the forms of communication.

Grade Level Objectives for Language Arts

By the end of Pre-Kindergarten, students will be able to:

Reading & Literature

- Read picture books.
- Identify characters in picture books.
- Coordinate eyes and hands.
- Locate their own head, arms, legs, etc.
- Identify and name colors.
- Identify household objects.
- Identify part-whole relationships.
- Recognize their name in print.

Listening & Speaking

- Listen to a wide variety of stories and poetry.
- Recite simple prayers.
- Sing worship songs.
- Listen without interrupting.
- Identify environmental sounds.
- Follow simple instructions.
- Contribute to language experience stories.
- Discuss familiar topics.
- Relay an experience.
- Create dialog.
- Listen to stories.
- Retell stories read to them.

- Role play activities.
- Speak in phrases and simple sentences.

Writing

- Draw and identify family members.
- Copy their names.

Grammar & Language Usage

- Practice social courtesies.

By the end of Kindergarten, students will be able to:

Reading & Literature

- Recite the alphabet.
- Identify each letter of the alphabet upon sight.
- Read the names of Jesus, God, classmates, and days of the week.
- Suggest picture or story titles.
- Sequence story pictures.
- Identify simple signs.
- Page through books from front to back.
- Identify part-whole relationships.
- Distinguish likenesses & differences.
- Choose among stories or poems.
- Use phonics and structural analysis to decode unknown words.

Listening & Speaking

- Identify consonant sounds when heard.
- Create and tell stories.
- Communicate nonverbally.
- Discriminate among common speech sounds.
- Speak clearly.
- Ask and answer questions
- Complete an unfinished story.
- Describe favorite characters.
- Follow two and three step instructions.
- Listen to a wide variety of stories and poetry.
- Recognize rhyming words.
- Retell simple stories.
- Recite their full name, address, telephone number.
- Create a dialog.
- Role play.

Writing

- Print their names.
- Copy written words and simple sentences.
- Print upper and lowercase letters.

Grammar & Language Usage

- Use complete sentences.
- Identify questions and statements.

By the end of grade 1, students will be able to:

Reading & Literature

- Enjoy reading developmentally appropriate books in leisure time.
- Use phonics and structural analysis to decode unknown words.
- Use semantic and syntactic clues to decode unknown words.
- Identify the setting of a story they hear or read.
- Recognize sight words that are important to them.
- Demonstrate an awareness that reading should make sense by modifying inaccurate predictions about unknown words.
- Distinguish and identify individual letters and letter groups in a variety of type and script styles.
- Read and interpret age-appropriate diagrams, charts, tables, maps, graphs, and time lines.

Listening & Speaking

- Sing simple hymns and worship songs.
- Contribute to and read experience stories composed by a group.
- Listen to get answers to questions or to clarify thinking.
- Distinguish between fantasy and reality when listening to stories.
- Participate in group discussions.
- Provide rhyming words for words they hear.
- Plan and perform a puppet show as a group to dramatize a Bible lesson.
- Recite repetitive chants and rhymes in a group.
- Listen to a wide variety of stories, poetry, and exposition, and find pleasure in exploring new types.

Writing

- Spell with increasing accuracy the words they use when they write.
- Use capital letters for the first word in a sentence and for names.
- Write legibly in print script, using appropriate size, slant, shape, and spacing.
- Copy written words and simple sentences.
- Write simple sentences that begin with a capital letter.
- Write short stories using traditional spelling along with invented spelling.
- Use a picture dictionary to discover meaning and spelling.
- Write names, labels for pictures, and stories to illustrate artwork.
- Write entries in a diary or personal journal.

Grammar & Language Usage

- Identify long and short vowel sounds and their letter patterns.
- Identify final consonant sounds.
- Use meaningful context to predict an unknown word.
- Categorize words into related groups (e.g., red, green, and white are colors.)
- Use singular and plural forms of nouns correctly.

By the end of grade 2, students will be able to:

Reading & Literature

- Read and sing simple hymns and worship songs.
- Identify the main idea and significant details.
- Enjoy reading developmentally appropriate books in leisure time.
- Activate and use prior knowledge when reading.
- Check their own understanding when reading.
- Change statements into questions, and questions into statements.
- Select and check out developmentally appropriate books from the library.
- Identify the characters, setting, and plot of a story students hear or read.
- Read and interpret diagrams, charts, tables, maps, graphs, and time lines.

Listening & Speaking

- Suggest alternate story conclusions to a story they have heard or read.
- Speak confidently with small groups and before the entire class.
- Listen to and retell stories, jokes, or riddles in correct sequence.
- Use pitch and rhythm in speech to convey meaning.
- Share experiences before the class in an established way.
- Listen to a wide variety of stories, poetry, and exposition, and find pleasure in exploring new types.
- Participate in a readers' theater performance.

Writing

- Understand and use contractions when writing.
- Write simple stories using original ideas, complete sentences, and a logical flow of related ideas.
- Sequence sentences logically in a story they write.
- Demonstrate the importance of both the content and mechanics of writing.
- Write legibly in print script and begin to use cursive writing.
- Write two-line poems that end in rhyming words.
- Translate experiences into written form.
- Write a letter to a friend using an appropriate heading and closing, and address an envelope correctly.
- Reread and revise their own stories.
- Write a simple dialog for three or four characters in a play.
- Use capital letters for the names of people, days, months, holidays, streets, and cities.
- Use verb tenses correctly in written composition.
- Write entries in a diary or personal journal.

Grammar & Language Usage

- Add prefixes and suffixes to words

By the end of grade 3, students will be able to:

Reading & Literature

- Read with increasing attention to meaning.
- Identify cause-and-effect relationships in stories read or heard.
- Identify the main idea, significant details, and the sequence of events in stories read silently.
- Suggest realistic and logical alternative conclusions to a story.
- Predict the behavior of story characters.
- Identify stories they read as being realistic or fantasy.
- Enjoy selecting age-appropriate and ability-appropriate books to read in leisure time.
- Identify the characters, setting, and plot of a story students hear or read.
- Read and interpret diagrams, charts, tables, maps, graphs, and time lines.

Listening & Speaking

- Lead small groups in impromptu or prepared prayer.
- Discuss story plots.
- Use pitch, rhythm, rate, and volume of speech to convey meaning.
- Dramatize favorite stories.
- Listen with increasing discrimination and ask questions to check their understanding.
- Read their own stories to the class.
- Articulate and use all sounds correctly.
- Listen to a wide variety of stories, poetry, and exposition, and find pleasure in exploring new types.
- Participate in a readers' theater performance.

Writing

- Write legibly in cursive writing.
- Write descriptions of story characters and infer motives.
- Describe in writing the images and feelings they receive when stimulated by music and art.
- Use capital letters where needed.
- Spell correctly the words they use when revising their writing.
- Write dictated sentences and paragraphs, using correct spelling and punctuation.
- Write a letter to a friend using an appropriate heading and closing, and address an envelope correctly.
- Write entries in a diary or personal journal.

Grammar & Language Usage

- Use alphabetical order to locate information of varying kinds.
- Identify and use subject-verb agreement in oral and written sentences.
- Use a junior dictionary to define and spell new words.
- Construct sentences that are statements, questions, exclamations, or imperatives (commands).
- Identify and use the possessive forms of nouns and pronouns in speaking and writing.

By the end of grade 4, students will be able to:

Reading & Literature

- Read aloud with interpretive expression.
- Identify multiple possible causes for characters' actions.
- Use reading as a study skill, using a table of contents, index, and glossary as aids for finding information.
- Choose age-appropriate and ability-appropriate level books to read in leisure time.
- Suggest realistic and logical alternative conclusions to a story.
- Identify the characters, setting, and plot of a story students hear or read.
- Read and interpret diagrams, charts, tables, maps, graphs, and time lines.

Listening & Speaking

- Listen for enjoyment and to gain information.
- Reenact story situations.
- Take notes while listening to an oral presentation.
- Listen to a wide variety of stories, poetry, and exposition, and find pleasure in exploring new types.
- Participate in a readers' theater performance.

Writing

- Reread and revise their own sentences, paragraphs, and stories.
- Diagram relationships through graphic organizers and semantic maps.
- Write summaries of stories.
- Listen and take simple notes in their own words, listing main ideas and significant details.
- Brainstorm ideas on a topic.
- Write concise news stories with significant facts listed in logical order.
- Write short sports reports, using athletes' names and significant statistics.
- Write the dialog for characters in a picture story.
- Write and present oral book reports referring to the main characters of a story and the sequence of events, using visual aids.
- Write rough copy with a willingness to recopy and improve legibility, ideas, and punctuation.
- Spell correctly the words that are needed for written expression in all subjects, and use multiple strategies for spelling unfamiliar words.
- Use accepted form and appropriate language in varying types of written communication.
- Write cursive script, using appropriate size, slant, shape and spacing.
- Write a letter to a friend using an appropriate heading and closing, and address an envelope correctly.
- Write entries in a diary or personal journal.

Grammar & Language Usage

- Identify and understand figurative and idiomatic language.
- Complete verbal analogies.
- Demonstrate awareness that there are levels of usage appropriate to varying occasions.
- Provide synonyms or antonyms for words.

By the end of grade 5, students will be able to:

Reading & Literature

- Compare and contrast various translations of the Holy Scriptures.
- Make evaluative judgments of fact or opinion when reading.
- Preview and skim expository selections and summarize the high points.
- Infer a time sequence in a story.
- Form generalizations from given details.
- Identify the following sections of a newspaper: editorial, sports, feature, and classified.
- Choose to read books in leisure time that are age appropriate and ability appropriate.
- Read for the purpose of gaining information on topics of interest.
- Adapt method and speed of reading to content and purpose.
- Identify and describe literary elements such as character, setting, plot, point of view, and dialog.
- Suggest realistic and logical alternative conclusions to a story.
- Identify the characters, setting, and plot of a story students hear or read.
- Read and interpret diagrams, charts, tables, maps, graphs, and time lines.

Listening & Speaking

- Listen critically to radio and television advertisements for errors, propaganda, or false claims.
- Deliver a brief impromptu speech confidently and with good organization of thought.
- Participate in class debates.
- Conduct an interview using a list of prepared questions.
- Listen to a wide variety of stories, poetry, and exposition, and find pleasure in exploring new types.
- Show an increasing awareness of the value of social conversation for sharing information or persuading others.
- Demonstrate increasing competence in inflection, modulation, and other methods of voice control.
- Present organized talks or dramatic recitations.
- Participate in a readers' theater performance.
- Speak for a particular purpose: seek information, give directions, explain, give information, express feelings or opinions, persuade, request, comply with social amenities, provide entertainment, pleasure, or comfort.

Writing

- Write articles, editorials, advertisements, sports reports, news stories, and feature articles for a class newspaper.
- Participate with a group in writing and producing a script for a skit or play.
- Write to express feelings or opinions.
- Write a letter to a friend using an appropriate heading and closing, and address an envelope correctly.
- Write entries in a diary or personal journal.
- Write a business letter.
- Write for a particular purpose: seek information, give directions, explain, give information, express feelings or opinions, persuade, request, comply with social amenities, provide entertainment, pleasure, or comfort.

Grammar & Language Usage

- Use a dictionary to define and spell words.
- Use a library's reference materials to research a topic, including computer searches, diagrams, and maps to locate information.
- Identify metaphors or similes in what they read.
- Spell correctly the words they need in order to write.
- Understand that Standard English is needed for effective oral and written communication.
- Explore common elements of the same word in different languages (e.g., father, Vater, pater, padre, pre).

By the end of grade 6, students will be able to:

Reading & Literature

- Preview, skim, and formulate questions on new selections.
- Adjust their rate of reading to suit the designated purpose for reading.
- Identify cause-and-effect relationships in stories.
- Describe connections or similarities between Bible characters and their own lives.
- Explore varieties of prose and poetry in literature, hymns, and in the Bible.
- Identify the author's possible purposes for writing a story or article.
- Use the setting of a story to determine when and where a story takes place.
- Recognize propaganda techniques in written selections and speeches.
- Identify the use and purpose of symbolism in a selection.
- Choose to read books in leisure time which are age appropriate and ability appropriate.
- Suggest realistic and logical solutions to a problem.
- Identify and describe literary elements such as character, setting, plot, point of view, and dialog.
- Read and interpret diagrams, charts, tables, maps, graphs, and time lines.

Listening & Speaking

- Plan and conduct interviews using a list of prepared questions and report on them using an established format.
- Use critical thinking skills in analyzing and discussing television programs as to their subject matter, nature of advertisements, and non-Christian elements.
- Speak for a particular purpose: seek information, give directions, explain, give information, express feelings or opinions, persuade, request, comply with social amenities, provide entertainment, pleasure, or comfort.
- Use personal language appropriate to the occasion, content, and audience.
- Use volume, pitch, rate, and tone appropriate to the audience and the occasion along with suitable gestures and facial expression while making verbal presentations.
- Listen to a wide variety of stories, poetry, and exposition, and find pleasure in exploring new types.
- Participate in a readers' theater performance.

Writing

- Write an outline of a topic.
- Write for a particular purpose: seek information, give directions, explain, give information, express feelings or opinions, persuade, request, comply with social amenities, provide entertainment, pleasure, or comfort.

- Write headlines for news stories.
- Write limericks and Haiku according to established patterns.
- Write creative stories of four to six paragraphs.
- Correctly spell the words they use when they revise their writing.
- Write a letter to a friend using an appropriate heading and closing, and address an envelope correctly.
- Write entries in a diary or personal journal.
- Write a business letter.

Grammar & Language Usage

- Explore the effectiveness of different placements of subordinate clauses in complex sentences and defend their choices.
- Punctuate written composition appropriately.
- Explore and appreciate differences in regional dialects.
- Identify and explain the function of various types of language: figurative language, similes, metaphors, euphemisms, idioms.
- Recognize bias or stereotyping in what they read or hear.
- Explore common elements of the same word in different languages (e.g., father, Vater, pater, padre, pre).

By the end of grade 7, students will be able to:

Reading & Literature

- Research and share the history of a favorite hymn or worship song.
- Identify and describe literary elements such as character, setting, plot, point of view, and dialog in a narrative and use them as models for their own narratives.
- Identify the major and minor characters in a story, book, or play.
- Describe the mood or the setting of a story and discuss its impact on the story.
- Apply what they read to their own lives.
- Identify the literary concepts of characterization, plot development, setting, theme, mood, and style.
- Evaluate an author's style on the basis of established criteria.
- Research the language of their ancestors and report on it.
- Choose to read books or write stories in leisure time.
- Use the Oxford English Dictionary to discover the origin of a word.
- Read a children's book to an audience of young children.
- Suggest realistic and logical solutions to a problem.
- Identify different genres of literature such as the poetry of Psalms and the narrative of Luke.
- Read and interpret diagrams, charts, tables, maps, graphs, and time lines.
- React to an author's use of language and word pictures.

Listening & Speaking

- Analyze the various purposes of speeches and other communications.
- Conduct a meeting, using appropriate parliamentary procedure.
- Demonstrate appropriate balance between listening and speaking behavior without being overly dominant or reticent.
- Take notes from an oral presentation and use them for a report on the presentation.
- Listen to a wide variety of stories, poetry, and exposition, and find pleasure in exploring new types.

- Participate in a readers' theater performance.
- Speak for a particular purpose: seek information, give directions, explain, give information, express feelings or opinions, persuade, request, comply with social amenities, provide entertainment, pleasure, or comfort.

Writing

- Write an abbreviated autobiography and a biography.
- Rewrite stories as drama, providing dialog and stage directions.
- Write a story in rhymed couplets.
- Write new words for a familiar melody.
- Evaluate their writing in terms of sequential development, supporting detail, and cause and effect.
- Read, discuss, and write varied forms of poetry (including hymns).
- Use accurate facts and valid sources of information to support ideas.
- Write a letter to a friend using an appropriate heading and closing, and address an envelope correctly.
- Write entries in a diary or personal journal.
- Write a business letter.
- Write for a particular purpose: seek information, give directions, explain, give information, express feelings or opinions, persuade, request, comply with social amenities, provide entertainment, pleasure, or comfort.
- Write creative stories of four to six paragraphs.

Grammar & Language Usage

- Proofread their own writing to check mechanics and revise it.
- Discuss the role of dashes, hyphens, quotations marks, apostrophes, and commas in writing and use them appropriately.
- Use sentences of varying lengths and complexity in written work.
- Create a list of important words from subject matter and spell them correctly.
- Explore common elements of the same word in different languages (e.g., father, Vater, pater, padre, pre).

By the end of grade 8, students will be able to:

Reading & Literature

- Examine the poetic form (rhyme and meter) of a favorite hymn or worship song.
- Identify and discuss differences in the behavior of two characters or the handling of the same topic by several authors.
- Select a job and search the classified section of a newspaper to discover possible options.
- Suggest realistic and logical solutions to a problem.
- Identify different genres of literature such as the poetry of Psalms and the narrative of Luke.
- Read fluently a story they have written for a group of younger children.
- Read and interpret diagrams, charts, tables, maps, graphs, and time lines.
- React to an author's use of language and word pictures.
- Choose books that are of interest to read in leisure time.

Listening & Speaking

- Participate in a readers' theater performance.
- Prepare a speech and adapt it for two different audiences or purposes.
- Participate in a group dramatization of a familiar story for younger students.
- Listen to a wide variety of stories, poetry, and exposition, and find pleasure in exploring new types.
- Speak for a particular purpose: seek information, give directions, explain, give information, express feelings or opinions, persuade, request, comply with social amenities, provide entertainment, pleasure, or comfort.

Writing

- Write entries in a diary or personal journal.
- Write a letter to the editor on a current issue, using good mechanics, a logical flow of ideas, and strong evidence for their personal reaction.
- Write a letter of application for a summer job they would like to have.
- Write a two- to four-page science-fiction or adventure story.
- Select important words from content areas and spell them correctly.
- Write a research paper, using three to five sources and documenting them correctly.
- Write accurate descriptions of characters.
- Write for a particular purpose: seek information, give directions, explain, give information, express feelings or opinions, persuade, request, comply with social amenities, provide entertainment, pleasure, or comfort.

Grammar & Language Usage

- Explore common elements of the same word in different languages (e.g., father, Vater, pater, padre, pre).
- Use compound and complex sentences in writing and speaking.
- Interpret abbreviations and acronyms.

Trade Books in Use

Grade Three

Stone Fox by John Reynolds Gardiner

Amber Brown is Not a Crayon by Paula Danzinger

Ramona Quimby Age 8 by Beverly Cleary

Ramona and Her Father by Beverly Cleary

Grade Four

The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes

Little House in the Big Woods Laura Ingalls Wilder

Stuart Little EB White

Grade 5 (used as two year cycle)

Maniac McGee by Jerry Spinelli

Old Yeller by Fred Gipson

The Best Christmas Pageant Ever by Barbara Robinson

Where the Red Fern Grows by Wilson Rawls

Sarah, Plain and Tall by Pat Machachlan
The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame
The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis

Grade 6

My Side of the Mountain
Bridge to Terabithia
Number the Stars
Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry
From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler

Grade 8

The Westing Game

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