

Dublin City Schools Language Arts Graded Course of Study Grade 4

Philosophy

The Dublin City Schools Language Arts program is designed to set clear and consistent expectations through an integrated model of literacy. The language arts standards are explicitly taught and integrated within all subjects throughout the day. The goal is to support children in becoming proficient and passionate readers, writers, speakers, listeners, and thinkers. We believe students learn best when literacy learning is authentic. Through collaboration and communication, students will develop the literacy skills necessary for college and career readiness. By partnering with parents and community we will ensure that students develop the skills needed to successfully meet the literacy demands of the 21st century.

Program or Course Goals

Grade Four Language Arts instruction builds on the literacy skills that were introduced at the primary levels.

Standards include:

- Reading – *Focus on literature, informational text, and fluent reading*
- Language/Word Study – *Focus on phonics, word recognition, conventions, vocabulary, and grammar*
- Writing – *Focus on producing narrative, informative, argument, and research writings*
- Speaking and Listening – *Focus on multi-media components along with formal and informal presentations*

Students will be introduced to a variety of strategies to enhance critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, and communication skills. Reading will be focused on a classroom library that will showcase a balance of genres including a higher emphasis on informational texts. A focus will be on comparing and contrasting first hand and second hand accounts of the same event. In addition grade four students will focus on comparing and contrasting the treatment of similar themes and topics in stories, myths and traditional literature from different cultures. Students will continue to develop comprehension strategies in all academic areas. A focus will be on strengthening their thinking with providing evidence from texts. Building and applying key vocabulary in all areas of academics will be a critical focus. Producing organized writing appropriate to the task and purpose is a goal. Students will present their knowledge through formal and informal speaking, as well as writing and digital formats.

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Common Core State Standards Strand: Reading Literature and Informational Text

To build a foundation for success students must read widely and deeply from increasingly challenging literary and informational texts such as but not limited to stories, dramas, poems and myths. Students must acquire the habits of reading independently and closely which are also essential for their future success.

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standard:

Key Ideas and Details

1. Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.
2. Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.
3. Analyze how and why individuals, events, and ideas develop and interact over the course of a text.

Craft and Structure

4. Interpret words and phrases as they are used in a text, including determining technical, connotative, and figurative meanings, and analyze how specific word choices shape meaning or tone.
5. Analyze the structure of texts, including how specific sentences, paragraphs, and larger portions of the text (e.g., a section, chapter, scene, or stanza) relate to each other and the whole.
6. Assess how point of view or purpose shapes the content and style of a text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

7. Integrate and evaluate content presented in diverse media and formats, including visually and quantitatively, as well as in words.
8. Delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, including the validity of the reasoning as well as the relevance and sufficiency of the evidence.
9. Analyze how two or more texts address similar themes or topics in order to build knowledge or to compare the approaches the authors take.

Range of Reading and Level of Text complexity

10. Read and comprehend complex literary and informational texts independently and proficiently.

Grade 4 Content Standards for Reading Literature and Informational Text

Topic: Key Ideas and Details

Reading for Literature

1. Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
2. Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.
3. 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).

Reading for Informational Text

1. Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.
2. Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.
3. Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text, including what happened and why, based on specific information in the text.

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Topic: Craft and Structure

Reading for Literature

4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including those that allude to significant characters found in mythology (e.g., Herculean).
5. Explain major differences between poems, drama, and prose, and refer to the structural elements of poems (e.g., verse, rhythm, meter) and drama (e.g., casts of characters, settings, descriptions, dialogue, stage directions) when writing or speaking about a text.
6. Compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are narrated, including the difference between first- and third-person narrations.

Reading for Informational Text

4. Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a *grade 4 topic or subject area*.
5. 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.
6. Compare and contrast a firsthand and secondhand account of the same event or topic; describe the differences in focus and the information provided.

Topic: Integration of Knowledge and Ideas

Reading for Literature

7. Make connections between the text of a story or drama and a visual or oral presentation of the text, identifying where each version reflects specific descriptions and directions in the text.
8. (Not applicable for literature)
9. 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) in stories, myths, and traditional literature from different cultures.

Reading for Informational Text

7. Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g., in charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines, animations, or interactive elements on Web pages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.
8. Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text.
9. Integrate information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably.

Topic: Range of Reading and Level of Text complexity

Reading for Literature

10. By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, in the grades 4–5 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

Reading for Informational Text

10. By the end of year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, in the grades 4–5 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

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Common Core State Standards Strand: Reading Foundational Skills

These standards are directed toward fostering students' understanding and working knowledge of concepts of print, the alphabetic principle, and other basic conventions of the English writing system. These foundational skills are not an end in and of themselves; rather, they are necessary and important components of an effective, comprehensive reading program designed to develop proficient readers with the capacity to comprehend texts across a range of types and disciplines. Instruction should be differentiated: good readers will need much less practice with these concepts than struggling readers will. The point is to teach students what they need to learn and not what they already know—to discern when particular children or activities warrant more or less attention.

Grade 4 Content Standards for Reading Foundational Skills

Topic: Phonics and Word Recognition

3. Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words.
 - a. 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.

Topic: Fluency

4. Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
 - a. Read grade-level text with purpose and understanding.
 - b. Read grade-level prose and poetry orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression.
 - c. Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.

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Common Core State Standards Strand: Writing

To build a foundation for success students must learn to use writing as a way of offering and supporting opinions, demonstrating understanding of the subjects they are studying, and conveying real and imagined experiences and events. Students will learn to appreciate the key purpose of writing is to communicate clearly. Students must devote significant time and effort to writing throughout the year.

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standard:

Key types and Purposes

1. Write arguments to support claims in an analysis of substantive topics or texts, using valid reasoning and relevant and sufficient evidence.
2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.
3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

Production and Distribution of Writing

4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
5. Develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.
6. Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and to interact and collaborate with others.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge

7. Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects based on focused questions, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.
8. Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.
9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

Range of Writing

10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Grade 4 Content Standards for Writing

Topic: Text Types and Purposes

1. Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.
 - a. Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which related ideas are grouped to support the writer's purpose.
 - b. Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.
 - c. Link opinion and reasons using words and phrases (e.g., *for instance, in order to, in addition*).
 - d. Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented.
2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
 - a. 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
 - b. Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.
 - c. Link ideas within categories of information using words and phrases (e.g., *another, for example, also, because*).

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- d. Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
- e. Provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented.
- 3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
 - a. Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.
 - b. Use dialogue and description to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.
 - c. Use a variety of transitional words and phrases to manage the sequence of events.
 - d. Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely.
 - e. Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.

Topic: Production and Distribution of Writing

- 4. Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
- 5. With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing.
- 6. With some guidance and support from adults, use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of one page in a single sitting.

Topic: Research to Build and Present

- 7. Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.
- 8. Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; take notes and categorize information, and provide a list of sources.
- 9. Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
 - a. Apply *grade 4 Reading standards* to literature (e.g., “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].”)
 - b. Apply *grade 4 Reading standards* to informational texts (e.g., “Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support particular points in a text”).

Topic: Range of Writing

- 10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

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Common Core State Standards Strand: Speaking and Listening

To build a foundation for success students must have ample opportunities to be productive participants in a variety of rich structured conversations. New technologies will allow students to broaden and expand the role that speaking and listening play in acquiring and sharing knowledge.

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standard:

Comprehension and Collaboration

1. Prepare for and participate effectively in a range of conversations and collaborations with diverse partners, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively
2. Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.
3. Evaluate a speaker's point of view, reasoning, and use of evidence and rhetoric.

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

4. Present information, findings, and supporting evidence such that listeners can follow the line of reasoning and the organization, development, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
5. Make strategic use of digital media and visual displays of data to express information and enhance understanding of presentations.
6. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and communicative tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

Grade 4 Content Standards for Speaking and Listening

Topic: Comprehension and Collaboration

1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on *grade 4 topics and texts*, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.
 - a. Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation and other information known about the topic to explore ideas under discussion.
 - b. Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions and carry out assigned roles.
 - c. Pose and respond to specific questions to clarify or follow up on information, and make comments that contribute to the discussion and link to the remarks of others.
 - d. Review the key ideas expressed and explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.
2. Paraphrase portions of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.
3. Identify the reasons and evidence a speaker provides to support particular points.

Topic: Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas

4. Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience in an organized manner, using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace.
5. Add audio recordings and visual displays to presentations when appropriate to enhance the development of main ideas or themes.
6. Differentiate between contexts that call for formal English (e.g., presenting ideas) and situations where informal discourse is appropriate (e.g., small-group discussion); use formal English when appropriate to task and situation.

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Common Core State Standards Strand: Language

To build a foundation for success students must gain control over many conventions of Standard English grammar, usage and mechanics. In the course of studying content students will expand vocabulary, come to appreciate that words have nonliteral meanings, and clarify the meaning of grade-appropriate words. The Language Strand is inseparable from reading, writing, speaking and listening.

College and Career Readiness Anchor Standard:

Conventions of Standard English

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

Knowledge of Language

3. Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases by using context clues, analyzing meaningful word parts, and consulting general and specialized reference materials, as appropriate.
5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships and nuances in word meanings.
6. Acquire and use accurately a range of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases sufficient for reading, writing, speaking, and listening at the college and career readiness level; demonstrate independence in gathering vocabulary knowledge when encountering an unknown term important to comprehension or expression.

Grade 4 Content Standards for Language

Topic: Conventions of Standard English

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
 - a. Use relative pronouns (*who, whose, whom, which, that*) and relative adverbs (*where, when, why*).
 - b. Form and use the progressive (e.g., *I was walking; I am walking; I will be walking*) verb tenses.
 - c. Use modal auxiliaries (e.g., *can, may, must*) to convey various conditions.
 - d. Order adjectives within sentences according to conventional patterns (e.g., *a small red bag* rather than *a red small bag*).
 - e. Form and use prepositional phrases.
 - f. Produce complete sentences, recognizing and correcting inappropriate fragments and run-ons.
 - g. Correctly use frequently confused words (e.g., *to, too, two; there, their*).
2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing
 - a. Use correct capitalization.
 - b. Use commas and quotation marks to mark direct speech and quotations from a text.
 - c. Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction in a compound sentence.
 - d. Spell grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting references as needed.

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Topic: Knowledge of Language

3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.
 - a. Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.
 - b. Choose punctuation for effect.
 - c. Differentiate between contexts that call for formal English (e.g., presenting ideas) and situations where informal discourse is appropriate (e.g., small-group discussion).

Topic: Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
 - a. Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
 - b. Use common, grade-appropriate Greek and Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., *telegraph*, *photograph*, *autograph*).
 - c. Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases.
5. Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
 - a. Explain the meaning of simple similes and metaphors (e.g., *as pretty as a picture*) in context.
 - b. Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs.
 - c. Demonstrate understanding of words by relating them to their opposites (antonyms) and to words with similar but not identical meanings (synonyms).
6. Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal precise actions, emotions, or states of being (e.g., quizzed, whined, stammered) and that are basic to a particular topic (e.g., *wildlife*, *conservation*, and *endangered* when discussing animal preservation).