

Zion Language Arts Curriculum

We teach Language Arts to enable students to...



become proficient in spreading the gospel through spoken and written words.



speak and write in a wholesome, Christ-like manner that is clearly understood and well-received.



become knowledgeable about and comfortable with a variety of writing purposes and audiences that they will encounter.



implement writing as a life-long process in which they will be able to share information and gain understanding.



write and speak for enjoyment.



discern and evaluate the different forms of communication in light of God's Word

Topic: Writing

Standard 1

Students will create or produce writing to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.

Our students will:

Kindergarten

- 1.1. Write simple sentences

Primary Grades (1-2)

- 1.1 Understand that sentences must make sense.
- 1.2 Be able to print legibly with correct spacing.
- 1.3 Understand that we write for different purposes and audiences.
- 1.4 Spell frequently used words correctly.

Intermediate Grades (3-4)

- 1.1 Be able to determine the author's purpose for writing and then write to share information, persuade others, and entertain.
- 1.2 Legibly print and write cursive using correct letter formations, letter connections and appropriate height and spacing.

Middle Grades (5-6)

- 1.1 Write a comparison / contrast paragraph for a specific audience with sufficient details in a clear and concise manner.
- 1.2 Write a personal narrative based on experience that uses descriptive language and detail effectively, presents a sequence of events, reveals a theme, and contains personal dialogue.
- 1.3 Write a persuasive letter for a specific audience.
- 1.4 Write a "How To" instructional composition in proper sequence, using clear and precise language.
- 1.5 Write a description using vivid language and utilizing the 5 senses.
- 1.6 Write a short story including the elements of setting, theme, characterization, and plot (posing a problem, climax, and resolution of the problem).
- 1.7 Use a variety of writing technologies, including pen and paper as well as computers.
- 1.8 Write for a variety of readers, including peers, teachers, younger children, other adults, adapting content, style and structure to fit the audience and situation.

Upper Grades (7-8)

- 1.1 Write a coherent and complete expository piece, with sufficient detail to fulfill its purpose, sufficient evidence to support its assertions, language appropriate for its intended audience, and clear organization of ideas.
- 1.2 Write a persuasive piece (such as a letter to a specific person or a script promoting a particular product) that includes a clear position, discernible tone, and a coherent argument with reliable evidence.
- 1.3 Write a narrative based on experience that uses descriptive language and detail effectively, presents a sequence of events, and reveals a theme.
- 1.4 Write clear and pertinent responses to verbal or visual material that communicate, explain, and interpret the reading or viewing experience to a specific audience.
- 1.5 Write creative fiction that includes major and minor characters, a coherent plot, effective imagery, descriptive language, and concrete detail.
- 1.6 Write in a variety of situations (during an exam, on a computer) and adapt strategies, such as revision, technology, and the use of reference materials, to the situation.
- 1.7 Become proficient in using a variety of writing technologies including pen and paper as well as computers.
- 1.8 Write for a variety of readers, including peers, teachers, and other adults, adapting content, style, and structure to fit the audience and situation.

Standard 2

Follow the steps of the writing process to publish clear and effective writing.

Our students will:

Kindergarten

- 2.1 Participate with the teacher to brainstorm ideas for writing.
- 2.2 Learn how to revise and edit their work and practice the skill.
- 2.3 Practice writing the upper and lower case letters using the correct formation.
- 2.4 Practice incorporating more descriptive words in their work as they write.
- 2.5 Be introduced to the concept of identifying and using cause and effect in their writing.
- 2.6 Be introduced to the concept of using compare and contrast in their writing.

Primary Grades (1-2)

- 2.1 Write interesting and meaningful sentences.
- 2.2 Develop an understanding of cause and effect in writing.
- 2.3 Learn the basic parts of a friendly letter and then be able to write a letter.
- 2.4 Write for an audience with some descriptive words.
- 2.5 Revise and edit their work with guidance.

Intermediate Grades (3-4)

- 2.1 Construct a meaningful and interesting paragraph of four or five sentences.
- 2.2 Write a short story which includes the story elements (characters, setting, plot).
- 2.3 Be introduced to ALL the steps in the writing process and practice these steps as they write.
- 2.4 Be able to identify and use figurative language in their own writing.
- 2.5 Be introduced to peer editing and how it can be used to improve writing.

Middle Grades (5-6)

- 2.1 Produce and edit multiple drafts, including finished pieces, that demonstrate the capacity to generate, focus, and organize ideas for communicating with a specific audience.
- 2.2 Identify questions and strategies for improving drafts in writing conferences with other students and with the teacher.
- 2.3 Produce a developed, organized, and effective response in correct English when writing to a prompt.

Upper Grades (7-8)

- 2.1 Demonstrate the ability to edit and revise the language, organization, content, and tone of multiple drafts in order to fulfill a specific purpose for communicating with a specific audience.
- 2.2 Identify questions and strategies for improving drafts in writing conferences with a teacher or fellow students.
- 2.3 Produce a well-developed, well organized, and effective response in correct English and an appropriate voice when writing to a prompt.

Standard 3

Understand the function of various forms, structures, and mechanics of standard American English and use them appropriately.

Our students will:

Kindergarten

- 3.1 Identify the naming (noun) and telling (verb) parts of a sentence.
- 3.2 Be introduced to basic capitalization rules.
- 3.3 Be introduced to basic punctuation marks.
- 3.4 Develop the ability to isolate sounds in a word in order to spell the word.
- 3.5 Identify the initial, medial, and final sound in a word.
- 3.6 Identify a variety of high frequency words.
- 3.7 Practice using the correct word order in sentences and when asking a question.

Primary Grades (1-2)

- 3.1 Write sentences using capital letters and correct ending marks (exclamation marks, question marks, and periods.)
- 3.2 Develop understanding and successfully identify a noun, pronoun, verb, adjective, and adverb.
- 3.3 Know the proper title abbreviations for certain occupations and respectful titles for adults.
- 3.4 Develop an understanding that a sentence must make sense.
- 3.5 Identify the difference between a true sentence and a fragment.
- 3.6 Develop the use of correct punctuation when writing a sentence.

Intermediate Grades (3-4)

- 3.1 Demonstrate leveled competence in using the correct capitalization and appropriate punctuation when writing sentences and paragraphs.
- 3.2 Understand and construct a sentence using the 8 parts of speech.
- 3.3 Review the Parts of Speech learned in grades 1-2 and also be able to identify conjunctions.
- 3.4 Identify and write four kinds of sentences (decl., imper., inter., exclam.) using the proper punctuation.
- 3.5 Correctly spell leveled words.
- 3.6 Be introduced to subject and verb agreement along with pronoun and noun (antecedent) agreement.
- 3.7 Review complete subject and complete predicate and then be introduced to simple subject and simple predicate.

Middle Grades (5-6)

- 3.1 Use and identify all eight parts of speech.
- 3.2 Form and use the simple tenses to indicate the relative order of events.
- 3.3 Understand and employ principles of agreement, including subject-verb, pronoun-noun (antecedent), and preposition-pronoun.
- 3.4 Punctuate simple, compound, and complex sentences correctly.
- 3.5 Correctly capitalize and punctuate the four basic sentence types.
- 3.6 Spell leveled words correctly and use effective strategies for spelling unfamiliar words.

Upper Grades (7-8)

- 3.1 Demonstrate proficiency in identifying and using the eight basic parts of speech and their various forms.
- 3.2 Identify and use correct tenses to indicate the relative order of events.

- 3.3 Understand and employ principles of agreement such as subject/verb, pronoun/noun, etc.
- 3.4 Demonstrate proficiency in using all mechanics including punctuation and capitalization.
- 3.5 Spell frequently used words correctly and use effective strategies for spelling unfamiliar words.

Topic: Research & Inquiry

Standard 1

Conduct research and inquiry on self-selected or assigned topics, issues, or problems and use an appropriate form to communicate their findings.

Our students will:

Kindergarten

- 1.1 Perform research and writing using procedures that build upon each other.

Primary Grades (1-2)

- 1.1 Develop competence in brainstorming for ideas.
- 1.2 Learn to use different reference materials for written work such as a dictionary, and an encyclopedia
- 1.3 Understand how to use a table of contents and a glossary.

Intermediate Grades (3-4)

- 1.1 Be introduced to and work with a variety of research tools.
- 1.2 Be able to work through the problem-solving process with classmates and alone.
- 1.3 Understand how to use reference materials such as a dictionary, thesaurus, and encyclopedia in order to find information and use it in their writing.
- 1.4 Be able to use a table of contents, index, and glossary in school textbooks.
- 1.5 Be able to interpret and create charts and graphs in order to obtain and share information.

Middle Grades (5-6)

- 1.1 Develop questioning techniques, narrow the focus of a topic, use prior knowledge, and develop a basic plan for gathering information.
- 1.2 Conduct simple polls and interviews.
- 1.3 Conduct research by identifying, locating, exploring, and effectively using appropriate sources of information including encyclopedias, almanacs,

- dictionaries, library catalogs, indexes to periodicals, and various electronic search engines.
- 1.4 Recognize, record, organize, and acknowledge information pertinent to a project.
 - 1.5 Present the results of inquiry, reporting orally and in writing, using appropriate visual aids (graphs and charts).

Upper Grades (7-8)

- 1.1 Formulate research questions and focus investigation on relevant and accessible sources of information.
- 1.2 Use multiple sources to identify and locate information pertinent to research including encyclopedias, almanacs, dictionaries, library catalogs, indexes to periodicals, and various electronic search engines.
- 1.3 Conduct interviews, field studies, and experiments and use specialized resources (such as almanacs, fact books, pamphlets, and technical manuals) when appropriate to an investigation.
- 1.4 Compile, organize, and evaluate information, take notes that record and summarize what has been learned, and extend the investigation to other sources.
- 1.5 Review and evaluate the usefulness of information gathered in an investigation.
- 1.6 Produce an organized written and oral report that presents and reflects on findings, draws sound conclusions, adheres to the conventions for preparing a manuscript, and gives proper credit to sources.

Topic: Oral Language

Standard 1

Orally communicate information, opinions, and ideas effectively to different audiences for a variety of purposes.

Our students will:

Kindergarten

- 1.1 Develop the ability to speak in front of the class when sharing their work.
- 1.2 Read aloud simple stories.
- 1.3 Participate in group readings.

Primary Grades (1-2)

- 1.1 Share their written work with a peer.
- 1.2 Read aloud stories for appropriate grade level.
- 1.3 Read aloud with fluency.
- 1.4 Share some special personal event with the class with confidence and competence.

Intermediate Grades (3-4)

- 1.1 Be able to retell stories in their own words.
- 1.2 Be introduced to a variety of oral book reports and practice sharing them with their classmates.
- 1.3 Gain confidence as they speak in front of their classmates.
- 1.4 Read and speak aloud with proper volume, fluency, and expression.

Middle Grades (5-6)

- 1.1 Prepare effective oral presentations which include good eye contact, projection, tone, volume, rate, speed, and articulation.
- 1.2 Perform expressive reading of prose, poetry, and drama, and choral reading.
- 1.3 Prepare and conduct interviews.
- 1.4 Present a variety of oral book reports.
- 1.5 Be able to make proper introductions of old to young, young to old, and peer to peer.
- 1.6 Become skillful participants in group discussions.
- 1.7 Speak from notes or a brief outline, communicating precise information and accurate instructions in clearly organized and sequenced detail.

Upper Grades (7-8)

- 1.1 Share brief impromptu remarks about topics of interest to oneself and others. (Sharing in class or outside of class)
- 1.2 Speak from notes or an outline to relate an experience in descriptive detail, with a sense of timing and decorum appropriate to an occasion.
- 1.3 Perform expressive oral reading of prose, poetry, and drama.
- 1.4 Prepare and conduct interviews.
- 1.5 Differentiate between formal and informal contexts and employ an appropriate style of speaking, adjusting language, gestures, rate and volume according to audience and purpose.
- 1.6 Observe appropriate speech etiquette in social situations.

Standard 2

Listen to and comprehend oral communication.

Our students will:

Kindergarten

- 2.1 Follow basic directions.
- 2.2 Develop the understanding that most literature contains a main idea with details to support it.
- 2.3 Retell stories in proper sequence.

- 2.4 Be introduced to the concept of plot, setting, and characters in a story and practice identifying them.
- 2.5 Predict events and outcomes in a story.
- 2.6 Listen to different genres of literature and answer factual or interpretive questions relating to them.
- 2.7 Distinguish between different genres of literature.
- 2.8 Use more complex vocabulary in their speaking.

Primary Grades (1-2)

- 2.1 Become competent with following oral directions.
- 2.2 Give oral directions appropriately.
- 2.3 Verbally answer questions given by teacher.
- 2.4 Become secure with the ability to identify different genres of written materials.
- 2.5 Continue to build vocabulary.

Intermediate Grades (3-4)

- 2.1 Be competent in giving and following oral directions.
- 2.2 Practice following multiple-step directions.
- 2.3 Comprehend leveled vocabulary and work to increase it.
- 2.4 Master identifying different genres.
- 2.5 Be introduced to and practice distinguishing fact from opinion.

Middle Grades (5-6)

- 2.1 Explore the purposes for listening, such as gaining information or being entertained, and take notes as appropriate.
- 2.2 Recall significant details and sequence accurately.
- 2.3 Be able to orally repeat and follow directions that have been written or verbally stated.
- 2.4 Summarize key points of a story or discussion.
- 2.5 Distinguish fact from opinion and provide evidence to support opinions.

Upper Grades (7-8)

- 2.1 Summarize and explain the information conveyed in an oral communication, accounting for the key ideas, structure, and relationship of parts to the whole.
- 2.2 Distinguish among purposes for listening, such as gaining information or being entertained.
- 2.3 Understand and follow simple and complex oral directions.
- 2.4 Give pertinent oral directions in a demonstration.
- 2.5 Recall and relate significant details and sequence accurately.

Standard 3

Participate effectively in discussion.

Our students will:

Kindergarten

- 3.1 Volunteer relevant information to a discussion, ask relevant questions to a topic, and answer the questions posed.
- 3.2 Properly use eye contact when speaking to others or in front of the class.
- 3.3 Be introduced to the concept of summarizing a story.
- 3.4 Use proper strategies in a discussion, such as listening, speaking when it is their turn, and avoiding interruptions

Primary Grades (1-2)

- 3.1 Develop participation in discussions.
- 3.2 Listen when they are being spoken to.
- 3.3 Wait their turn and show respect to the speaker.
- 3.4 Develop the ability to summarize.

Intermediate Grades (3-4)

- 3.1 Become more comfortable as they participate in small and large group discussions as an active listener and also an active participant.
- 3.2 Continue developing their summarizing skills by identifying the main idea and supporting details.
- 3.3 Develop patience as they wait their turn and show respect by listening quietly and attentively to the person speaking.

Middle Grades (5-6)

- 3.1 Volunteer relevant information, ask relevant questions, and answer questions directly.
- 3.2 Reflect on the ideas and opinions of others and respond thoughtfully.
- 3.3 Respond appropriately to higher level questioning.
- 3.4 Ask for clarification and explanation of unfamiliar words and ideas.
- 3.5 Summarize information conveyed through discussion.
- 3.6 Participate in discussion without dominating.
- 3.7 Recognize supported and unsupported statements.

Upper Grades (7-8)

- 3.1 Listen attentively and demonstrate respect for the opinions of others with appropriate facial expressions, body language, and response cues.
- 3.2 Invite opinions of others into a discussion.

- 3.3 Seek clarification through questions.
- 3.4 Summarize main points and paraphrase contributions.
- 3.5 Distinguish between supported and unsupported statements.
- 3.6 Evaluate the reliability of information in a communication.
- 3.7 Explain personal opinions by citing sources and evidence.
- 3.8 Respond clearly and tactfully to questions and comments.
- 3.9 Accept and use constructive criticism.
- 3.10 Participate without dominating.

Topic: Media and Technology

Standard 1

Use computers to acquire, organize, analyze, and communicate information.

Our students will:

Kindergarten- Grade 4

- 1.1 Use the computer to play learning games.
- 1.2 Learn that the letters of the alphabet, which are used to write words, correspond to the letters on the keys of the keyboard.
- 1.3 Write simple words and sentences using the computer.
- 1.4 Begin using the computer to publish written works.

Middle and Upper Grades (5-8)

- 1.1 Use word processing skills to produce written language arts projects.
- 1.2 Create, store, and retrieve electronic files.
- 1.3 Use a search engine effectively
- 1.4 Access information using electronic reference sources such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, almanacs, indexes, web pages, and news groups.
- 1.5 Explore the uses of electronic messages such as e-mail.
- 1.6 Perform basic computer operations on various platforms.

Standard 2

Make informed judgments about media and products.

Our students will:

Intermediate Grades (3-4)

- 2.1 Be introduced to propaganda techniques used in media.
- 2.2 Develop an understanding when broad generalizations are being used.

Middle Grades (5-6)

- 2.1 Identify the intent or appeal behind products and messages promoted via media
- 2.2 Recognize basic propaganda techniques.
- 2.3 Identify images and symbols central to particular messages and compare the effect of particular symbols and images seen in various media.
- 2.4 Develop God-pleasing criteria for selecting or avoiding specific broadcast programs and periodicals.

Upper Grades (7-8)

- 2.1 Recognize common structural features found in print and broadcast advertising.
- 2.2 Identify and explain the use of stereotypes and biases evident in various media.
- 2.3 Compare the effect of particular symbols and images seen in various media.
- 2.4 Develop God-pleasing criteria for selecting or avoiding specific broadcast programs and periodicals.

Standard 3

Create and share media products appropriate to audience and purpose.

Our students will:

Primary and Intermediate Grades (1-4)

- 3.1 Identify the different parts of a newspaper article.
- 3.2 Create a simple newspaper with advertisement and news articles.
- 3.3 Create simple signs and posters.

Middle Grades (5-6)

- 3.1 Write news articles appropriate for familiar media.
- 3.2 Create simple advertising messages and graphics for familiar media.
- 3.3 Prepare, perform, and tape simple radio and television scripts.
- 3.4 Prepare and perform school announcements and program scripts.
- 3.5 Create a multi-media project to share with a specified audience.
- 3.6 Publish a school newspaper edition utilizing informative writing, graphics, and photographs.
- 3.7 Recognize how messages are adjusted for different audiences.
- 3.8 Identify advertising strategies and techniques aimed at various age groups.

Upper Grades (7-8)

- 3.1 Write informal articles that target audiences of a variety of publications.
- 3.2 Use desktop publishing to produce products such as brochures and newsletters designed for particular organizations and audiences.
- 3.3 Create Powerpoints to assist in oral presentations.
- 3.4 Create video and audiotapes designed for particular audiences.
- 3.5 Plan a promotion or campaign that involves broadcast and print media production and distribution.
- 3.6 Analyze how messages may be affected by financial factors such as sponsorship.
- 3.7 Identify advertising strategies and techniques aimed at teenagers.

Standard 4

Analyze and edit media work as appropriate to audience and purpose.

Our students will:

Intermediate Grades (3-4)

- 4.1 Watch and provide constructive criticism on media work.
- 4.2 Introduce questions students should ask themselves while watching a media work.
Age appropriate? Appropriate content? Appropriate for a child of God?

Upper Grades (5-8)

- 4.1 Revise media productions by adding, deleting, and adjusting the sequence and arrangement of information, images, or other content as necessary to improve focus, clarity, or effect.
- 4.2 Provide feedback to (and receive from) peers about the content, organization, and overall effect of media work.
- 4.3 Develop criteria for comprehensive feedback according to Christian values on the quality of media work and use that feedback during production.