

# PARENT GUIDE

## GRADE FOUR ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM

### DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND

Below is a list of the skills your child will be taught in Grade Four.

As parents, you are encouraged to support the work of your child’s teacher in helping your child acquire each of these skills.

<b>CAPACITIES OF THE LITERATE INDIVIDUAL</b>	
	They demonstrate independence.
	They build strong content knowledge.
	They respond to the varying demands of audience, task, purpose.
	They comprehend as well as critique.
	They value evidence.
	They use technology and digital media strategically and capably.
	They come to understand other perspectives and cultures.
<b>LANGUAGE</b>	
<b>CONVENTIONS OF STANDARD ENGLISH</b>	
	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
	Use relative pronouns (who, whose, whom, which, that) and relative adverbs (where, when, why).
	Form and use the progressive (e.g., I was walking; I am walking; I will be walking) verb tenses.
	Use modal auxiliaries (e.g., can, may, must) to convey various conditions.
	Order adjectives within sentences according to conventional patterns (e.g., a small red bag rather than a red small bag).
	Form and use prepositional phrases.
	Produce complete sentences, recognizing and correcting inappropriate fragments and run-ons.
	Correctly use frequently confused words (e.g., to, too, two; there, their).
	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
	Use correct capitalization.
	Use commas and quotation marks to mark direct speech and quotations from a text.
	Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction in a compound sentence.
	Spell grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting references as needed.
<b>KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGE</b>	
	Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.
	Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.
	Choose punctuation for effect.
	Differentiate between contexts that call for formal English (e.g., presenting ideas) and situations where informal discourse is appropriate (e.g., small-group discussion).
<b>VOCABULARY ACQUISITION AND USE</b>	
	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.
	Use context (e.g., definitions, examples, or restatements in text) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
	Use common, grade-appropriate Greek and Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., telegraph, photograph, autograph).
	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.

<b>VOCABULARY ACQUISITION AND USE CONTINUED</b>	
	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
	Explain the meaning of simple similes and metaphors (e.g., as pretty as a picture) in context.
	Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs.
	Demonstrate understanding of words by relating them to their opposites (antonyms) and to words with similar but not identical meanings (synonyms).
	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).
<b>WRITING</b>	
<b>TEXT TYPES AND PURPOSES</b>	
	Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.
	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.
	Provide reasons that are supported by facts and details.
	Link opinion and reasons using words and phrases (e.g., for instance, in order to, in addition).
	Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented.
	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
	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.
	Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic.
	Link ideas within categories of information using words and phrases (e.g., another, for example, also, because).
	Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
	Provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented.
	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
	Orient the reader by establishing a situation and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.
	Use dialogue and description to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.
	Use a variety of transitional words and phrases to manage the sequence of events.
	Use concrete words and phrases and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely.
	Provide a conclusion that follows from the narrated experiences or events.
<b>PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF WRITING</b>	
	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.)
	With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1-3 up to and including grade 4 here.)
	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.
<b>RESEARCH TO BUILD AND PRESENT KNOWLEDGE</b>	
	Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.
	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.
	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
	Apply grade 4 Reading standards to literature.
	Apply grade 4 Reading standards to informational texts.

