

# PARENT GUIDE

## GRADE SEVEN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS CURRICULUM

### DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND

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

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.
	Explain the function of phrases and clauses in general and their function in specific sentences.
	Choose among simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas.
	Place phrases and clauses within a sentence, recognizing and correcting misplaced and dangling modifiers.
	Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
	Use a comma to separate coordinate adjectives (e.g., It was a fascinating, enjoyable movie; but not, He wore an old[,] green shirt).
	Spell correctly.
<b>KNOWLEDGE OF LANGUAGE</b>	
	Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.
	Choose language that expresses ideas precisely and concisely, recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy.
<b>VOCABULARY ACQUISITION AND USE</b>	
	Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 7 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
	Use context (e.g., the overall meaning of a sentence or paragraph; a word's position or function in a sentence) as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
	Use common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to the meaning of a word (e.g., belligerent, bellicose, rebel).
	Consult general and specialized reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation of a word or determine or clarify its precise meaning or its part of speech.
	Verify the preliminary determination of the meaning of a word or phrase (e.g., by checking the inferred meaning in context or in a dictionary).
	Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.
	Interpret figures of speech (e.g., literary, biblical, and mythological allusions) in context.
	Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., synonym/antonym, analogy) to better understand each of the words.
	Distinguish among the connotations (associations) of words with similar denotations (definitions).
	Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general academic and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression.

## WRITING

### TEXT TYPES AND PURPOSES

	Write arguments to support claims with clear reasons and relevant evidence.
	Introduce claim(s), acknowledge alternate or opposing claims, and organize the reasons and evidence logically.
	Support claim(s) with logical reasoning and relevant evidence, using accurate, credible sources and demonstrating an understanding of the topic or text.
	Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among claim(s), reasons, and evidence.
	Establish and maintain a formal style.
	Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the argument presented.
	Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
	Introduce a topic clearly, previewing what is to follow; organize ideas, concepts, and information, using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect; include formatting (e.g., headings), graphics (e.g., charts, tables), and multimedia when useful to aiding comprehension.
	Develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples.
	Use appropriate transitions to create cohesion and clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts.
	Use precise language and domain-specific vocabulary to inform about or explain the topic.
	Establish and maintain a formal style.
	Provide a concluding statement or section that follows from and supports the information or explanation presented.
	Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.
	Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.
	Use narrative techniques, such as dialogue, pacing, and description, to develop experiences, events, and/or characters.
	Use a variety of transition words, phrases, and clauses to convey sequence and signal shifts from one time frame or setting to another.
	Use precise words and phrases, relevant descriptive details, and sensory language to capture the action and convey experiences and events.
	Provide a conclusion that follows from and reflects on the narrated experiences or events.

### PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF WRITING

	Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1–3 above.)
	With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1–3 up to and including grade 7 here.)
	Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing and link to and cite sources as well as to interact and collaborate with others, including linking to and citing sources.

### RESEARCH TO BUILD AND PRESENT KNOWLEDGE

	Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions for further research and investigation.
	Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation.
	Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
	Apply grade 7 Reading standards to literature (e.g., “Compare and contrast a fictional portrayal of a time, place, or character and a historical account of the same period as a means of understanding how authors of fiction use or alter history”).
	Apply grade 7 Reading standards to literary nonfiction (e.g. “Trace and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text, assessing whether the reasoning is sound and the evidence is relevant and sufficient to support the claims”).

