

GRADE 7

In seventh grade, students' ability to think abstractly increases. Seventh graders continue to examine and challenge the ideas of others and expand their ability to express and justify their own points of view. Standards in the middle grades transition from the earlier grades' explicit focus on building foundational literacy skills to the application of foundational skills and knowledge in order to read and respond to various types of literature. The Course of Study for Grades 6-8 marks this progression by organizing standards into types of literacy (critical, digital, language, research, and vocabulary) to reflect the progression of complexity from elementary to secondary content. Each literacy type is followed by an explanation of its overarching concept, which is the same in each grade from six through twelve. The categories (reading, listening, writing, and speaking) continue as in previous grades, with a standard in every category.

The Grades 6-8 Recurring Standards for English Language Arts, shown in the chart below, are an important part of every grade level. Students must utilize these necessary skills daily as they build their knowledge base, strengthen existing abilities, and strive to master each grade level's standards. These recurring standards are to be emphasized throughout the middle grades.

RECURRING STANDARDS FOR GRADES 6-8

Students will:

Reception

- R1. Utilize active listening skills during discussion and conversation in pairs, small groups, or whole-class settings, following agreed-upon rules for participation.
- R2. Use context clues to determine meanings of unfamiliar spoken or written words.

Expression

- R3. Use digital and electronic tools appropriately, safely, and ethically when researching and writing, both individually and collaboratively.
- R4. Utilize a writing process to plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish writings in various genres.

R5. Assess the formality of occasions in order to speak or write using appropriate language and tone.

R6. Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

GRADE 7 CONTENT STANDARDS

Each content standard completes the stem “*Students will...*”

CRITICAL LITERACY		
Process and employ information for a variety of academic, occupational, and personal purposes.		
RECEPTION	READING	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate the contributions of informational text elements, including categories, point of view, purpose, and figurative, connotative, and technical word meanings, to develop central and supporting ideas. 2. Evaluate how effectively an author uses structures of informational texts, including comparison and contrast, problem and solution, cause and effect, and substantiated or unsubstantiated claims and evidence, to achieve a purpose. 3. Explain how the author’s choice of setting, plot, characters, theme, conflict, dialogue, and point of view contribute to and/or enhance the meaning and purpose of prose and poetry, using textual evidence from the writing. 4. Evaluate literary devices to support interpretations of literary texts using textual evidence, including simile, metaphor, personification, onomatopoeia, hyperbole, imagery, tone, symbolism, irony, and mood.
	LISTENING	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Evaluate rhetorical strategies used to develop central and supporting ideas in recorded or live presentations, including point of view, purpose, comparison, categories, and word meanings (figurative, connotative, and technical).

		6. Evaluate the speaker's use of hyperbole, tone, symbolism, imagery, mood, irony, and onomatopoeia in a live or recorded presentation.
EXPRESSION	WRITING	<p>7. Produce clear, coherent narrative, argument, and informative/explanatory writing in which the development, organization, style, and tone are relevant to task, purpose, and audience, using an appropriate command of language.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Write narratives to convey a series of events incorporating key literary elements, establishing a clear purpose, using narrative techniques (dialogue, pacing, description, and reflection), and sequencing events coherently (chronological and/or flashback). b. Write informative or explanatory texts with an organized structure and a formal style to examine ideas or processes effectively while developing the topic and utilizing appropriate transitions, precise vocabulary, and credible information or data when relevant. c. Write an argument to defend a position by introducing and supporting claim(s), acknowledging alternate or opposing claims, and presenting reasons and relevant text evidence from accurate and credible sources.
	SPEAKING	<p>8. Participate in collaborative discussions about arguments by evaluating claims, findings, and evidence from a source.</p> <p>9. Participate in collaborative discussions about prose and poetry by evaluating the use of literary devices and elements.</p>

DIGITAL LITERACY

Use technology, including the Internet, to research, analyze, produce, publish, and update individual or shared writing products, taking advantage of technology's capacity to link to other information, people, and resources and to display information flexibly and dynamically.

RECEPTION	READING	<p>10. Assess subject, occasion, audience, purpose, tone, and credibility of various digital sources. <i>Examples: online academic journals, social media, blogs</i></p> <p>11. Compare and contrast the effectiveness of techniques used in a variety of digital sources to generate and answer literal, interpretive, and applied questions and create new understandings.</p> <p>12. Determine the intended purposes of techniques used for rhetorical effect in multiple digital sources.</p>
	LISTENING	<p>13. Interpret language through active listening to determine subject, occasion, audience, purpose, tone, and credibility of digital sources.</p>
EXPRESSION	WRITING	<p>14. Create and edit digital products that are appropriate in subject, occasion, audience, purpose, and tone.</p> <p>15. Utilize digital tools and/or products to enhance meaning. <i>Examples: hashtags, videos, slide presentations, audio clips, GIFS, memes; social media platforms</i></p>
	SPEAKING	<p>16. Convey ideas in an appropriate digital format with specific attention to subject, occasion, audience, purpose, and tone.</p>

LANGUAGE LITERACY

Recognize and demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar, mechanics, and usage, including appropriate formality of language.

RECEPTION	READING	<p>17. Identify the conventions of standard English grammar and usage in writing.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify subject-verb agreement with compound subjects joined by correlative and coordinating conjunctions and with collective nouns when verb form depends on the rest of the sentence. Identify the usage of simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex statements and questions to signal differing relationships among ideas in a text. Evaluate the functions of phrases and clauses in general and their function in specific sentences. <p>18. Identify the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling in a variety of texts.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Correct improper usage of commas, apostrophes, quotation marks, colons, and semicolons through peer editing.
	LISTENING	<p>19. Evaluate a speaker’s organizational choices to determine point of view, purpose, and effectiveness.</p> <p>20. Identify a speaker’s formality of language in order to comprehend, interpret, and respond appropriately.</p>
EXPRESSION	WRITING	<p>21. Create written work using standard English grammar, usage, and mechanics.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Revise their own writing using correct mechanics with a focus on commas, apostrophes, quotation marks, colons, and semicolons. Construct simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to represent relationships among ideas. Embed phrases and clauses within a sentence, recognizing and correcting misplaced or dangling modifiers.
	SPEAKING	<p>22. Choose language that expresses ideas precisely and concisely.</p>

RESEARCH LITERACY

Engage in inquiry through the research process to locate, acquire, refine, and present relevant and credible findings in multiple modes.

RECEPTION	READING	<p>23. Implement ethical guidelines while finding and recording information from a variety of primary, secondary, and digital sources.</p> <p>24. Determine the relevance, reliability, and validity of information from nonfiction and fictional printed and/or digital texts.</p>
	LISTENING	<p>25. Use active listening to acquire information and assess its relevance and credibility.</p>
EXPRESSION	WRITING	<p>26. Produce research writings over extended periods with time for research, reflection, and revision and within shorter time frames, with minimal guidance. <i>Examples: a day or two, a single sitting</i></p> <p>27. Quote, paraphrase, summarize, and present findings, following an appropriate citation style and avoiding plagiarism. <i>Example: MLA, APA</i></p>
	SPEAKING	<p>28. Incorporate research into oral presentations, summarizing and supporting opinions and ideas with relevant details.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Collect information through the research process to answer follow-up questions and participate in discussions about their research findings.

VOCABULARY LITERACY

Increase academic, domain-specific, and grade-level-appropriate vocabularies through reading, word study, and class discussion.

RECEPTION	READING	<p>29. Determine word meaning through the use of word parts, context clues, connotation and denotation, or print or digital reference tools. <i>Examples: affixes, Greek and Latin roots, stems; dictionary, thesaurus, glossary</i></p> <p>30. Read and evaluate texts from science, social studies, and other academic disciplines to determine how those disciplines treat domain-specific vocabulary and content organization.</p>
	LISTENING	<p>31. Infer word meaning through active listening in various contexts for purposeful, effective communication. <i>Examples: classroom discussion, oral presentations, digital formats</i></p>
EXPRESSION	WRITING	<p>32. Apply vocabulary in writing to convey and enhance meaning.</p>
	SPEAKING	<p>33. Select and utilize effective words and phrases that are suitable for purpose and audience to communicate clearly in a variety of situations.</p>