

English Language Arts (PreK – 8th Grade)

Academic Content & Skills Summary

Peru Elementary School District 124

In an effort to communicate clear academic expectations to students, parents and the local community, Peru Elementary School District 124 provides Academic Content and Skills Summaries from preschool through eighth grade in the areas of mathematics, language arts, science, social studies, technology, art, music and physical education.

Following is a simple summary of what our children should know and be able to do at each grade level in the area of English Language Arts. All children can learn, even if not at the same pace or in the same way, and ultimately these general skills and content items are what we will strive to accomplish with the assistance of our parents at home.

Pre-K students will:

- Have exposure to the 26 uppercase letters and letter sounds.
- Develop name identification and letter formation.
- Develop Phonemic Awareness, including segmenting words, elaborating on sounds and rhyming.
- Have exposure to fiction, non-fiction as well as other different forms of reading materials, creating a comprehension of the content.
- Teach writing to convey ideas and purpose.

Kindergarten students will:

- Recognize and name all upper- and lower-case letters and sounds of the alphabet
- Read common high frequency words by sight
- Demonstrate understanding of organization and basic features of print
- Demonstrate understanding of spoken words, syllables, and sounds
- Read emergent reader text with purpose and understanding (fluency)
- With prompting and support, begin to show comprehension of text
 - Ask and answer questions about key details in a text
 - Identify main topic and retell key details
 - Identify character, setting, and major events in story
 - Discuss and understand vocabulary in text
- Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event

1st Grade students will:

- Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- Read prose and poetry of appropriate complexity for grade level with prompting and support.
- Retell stories, including key details, and demonstrate understanding of their central message or lesson.
- Describe characters, settings, and major events in a story, using key details.
- Identify words and phrases in stories or poems that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses.

1st Grade students will (continued):

- Explain major differences between books that tell stories and books that give information, drawing on a wide reading of a range of text types.
- Identify who is telling the story at various points in a text.
- Use illustrations and details in a story to describe its characters, setting, or events.
- Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories.

2nd Grade students will:

- Apply grade-level phonics to decode words.
- Read with accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
- Read a range of genre, including fables and folktales from different cultures and texts about social studies and science.
- Read and respond to texts by asking/answering such questions as who, what, when, where, why, and how.
- Analyze texts to describe how characters respond to major events and challenges and note differences in points of view.
- Compare and contrast two or more versions of the same story by different authors and the most important points presented by two texts on the same topic.
- Expand vocabulary
- Participate in class discussions by listening and building on what others are saying.
- Ask and answer questions about what a speaker says in order to clarify comprehension, gather additional information, and deepen understanding.
- Write opinion pieces in which they introduce a book or topic, state an opinion, and supply reasons to support their opinion.
- Write both informative/explanatory texts and narratives.
- Learn and apply the rules of spoken and written English.

3rd Grade students will:

- Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text
- Determine the central lesson and how it is conveyed through key details
- Describe characters in a story
- Determine the meaning of words as they are used in a text
- Refer to parts of stories, dramas, and poems when writing or speaking about a text
- Distinguish point of view
- Explain how texts' illustrations contribute to words in the story
- Compare and contrast themes, settings, and plots

4th Grade students will:

- Use details from a story to identify and understand its theme.
- Determine the meaning of words and phrases used figuratively.
- Know both first- and third- person narration.
- Recognize vocabulary by using context clues to determine or clarify the meanings of unfamiliar words in grade-appropriate text.
- Establish the author's purpose and explain how the reader can determine the purpose.
- Identify and explain the main idea and explain how details support it.
- Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency in a variety of contexts to support comprehension in both fiction and nonfiction.

4th Grade students will (continued):

- Monitor and adjust understanding of text by previewing, applying knowledge of words and sentence structure, and looking for clues to confirm inferences.
- Analyze the elements of plot, including exposition, conflict, resolution, and understand how events in the plot build on one another.
- Refer to parts of stories, dramas, and poems when writing or speaking about a text.

5th Grade students will:

- Quote evidence from both fiction and nonfiction text to best support inferences made as well as identify reasons and information to justify particular points.
- Determine the overall theme of a work of fiction, stated or implied, and the main idea(s) of a nonfiction text in order to summarize as well as compare/contrast within the same genre.
- Explain how different genres of fiction can be organized when telling a story and compare/contrast this with the various text structures commonly used in nonfiction informational texts.
- Consider aspects such as setting, characterization, genre, and historical significance, draw conclusions from specific details in the text to analyze the relationships, interactions, and decisions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts.
- Recognize and examine the influence a narrator's or speaker's point of view can have on how an event is described and/or how multiple accounts of the same situation can be compared/contrasted because of individual perception.
- Draw information from multiple print or digital sources to demonstrate knowledge of a subject, solve and problem efficiently, and analyze how these contribute to the meaning, tone or beauty of a text.
- Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency in a variety of contexts to support comprehension in both fiction and nonfiction.
- Develop clear, focused writing of all types that is developed and organized appropriately for the task, purpose, and audience intended and demonstrates proper use of grammar and standard English conventions.
- Acquire, understand and use grade-appropriate words and phrases taking into consideration context clues, figurative language, connotation, nuance, word origins, and word relationships.

6th Grade students will:

- Describe the literary elements of plot, theme, character, and setting to analyze short stories, poems, novels, and plays
- Use information from texts to support answers; be able to summarize and utilize fiction and nonfiction text
- Build vocabulary knowledge through word study and use context clues within a text to determine meaning
- Learn parts of speech, parts of sentences, and how to write complete sentences with proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation
- Plan, write, revise, and peer-edit narrative, informative, and argumentative essays
- Develop listening and following directions skills through literature
- Research and prepare speeches on informational topics and develop effective public speaking skills

7th Grade students will:

- Compose organized, constructed responses with supporting evidence and critical analysis.
- Prepare for and engage in collaborative discussions to present claims and analyze main ideas.
- Use prefixes, roots, and suffixes to determine the meaning of new words.
- Incorporate purposeful figurative language in writing.
- Read and understand a variety of literary genres with an emphasis on literary element interaction in the text (setting, character, plot, theme, conflict, mood).
- Compare and contrast a written text to its multimedia version, analyzing the effects of film techniques on the overall understanding of the text.
- Read and understand a variety of informational texts and use these texts as sources in order to construct answers to research questions.
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.

8th Grade students will:

- Identify and analyze the best evidence to support inferences drawn from both fiction and nonfiction text
- Produce clear and coherent writing, whether it be expository, argumentative, or narrative, in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate for the assignment, purpose, and audience
- Determine the central idea of a fiction or nonfiction text and interpret how its development can be explained through making connections and summarizing
- Study point-of-view in both fiction and nonfiction to compare and contrast with the author's tone in determining purpose and the existence of any bias
- Close read both fiction and nonfiction texts to recognize and critique author's style as well as the organization of information
- Carefully consider all meanings and associations of words or phrases when using them in writing or examining them in written texts
- Use knowledge of language and its conventions when reading, writing, speaking, or listening