



# Archdiocese of Washington Catholic Schools

## Academic Standards

### English/Language Arts

## 3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE

### **Standard 1 – READING: Word Recognition, Fluency, and Vocabulary Development**

*Students understand the basic features of words. They select letter patterns and know how to translate them into spoken language by using phonics (an understanding of the different letters that make different sounds), syllables, word parts (un-, -ful), and context clues (the meaning of the text around a word). They apply this knowledge to achieve fluent (smooth and clear) oral and silent reading.*

#### **Decoding and Word Recognition**

- 3.1.1 Know and use more difficult word families (*-ight*) when reading unfamiliar words.
- 3.1.2 Read words with several syllables.
- 3.1.3 Read aloud grade-level-appropriate narrative text (stories) and expository text (information) fluently and accurately and with appropriate timing, change in voice, and expression.

#### **Vocabulary and Concept Development**

- 3.1.4 Determine the meanings of words using knowledge of antonyms (words with opposite meaning), synonyms (words with the same meaning), homophones (words that sound the same but have different meanings and spellings), and homographs (words that are spelled the same but have different meanings).

Example: Understand that words, such as fair and fare, are said the same way but have different meanings. Know the difference between two meanings of the word lead when used in sentences, such as “The pencil has *lead* in it” and “I will *lead* the way.”

- 3.1.5 Demonstrate knowledge of grade-level appropriate words to speak specifically about different issues.
- 3.1.6 Use sentence and word context to find the meaning of unknown words.
- 3.1.7 Use a dictionary to learn the meaning and pronunciation of unknown words.
- 3.1.8 Use knowledge of prefixes (word parts added at the beginning of words such as *un-*, *pre-*) and suffixes (word parts added at the end of words such as *-er*, *-ful*, *-less*) to determine the meaning of words.
- 3.1.9 Identify more difficult multiple-meaning words (such as *puzzle* or *fire*).



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#### **Standard 2 – READING: Reading Comprehension**

Students read and understand grade-level-appropriate material. They use a variety of comprehension strategies, such as asking and responding to essential questions, making predictions, and comparing information from several sources to understand what is read. In addition to their regular school reading, at Grade 3, students read a variety of grade-level-appropriate narrative (story) and expository (informational and technical) texts, including classic and contemporary literature, poetry, children’s magazines and newspapers, reference materials, and online information.

#### **Structural Features of Informational Technical Materials**

3.2.1 Use titles, tables of contents, chapter headings, a glossary, or an index to locate information in text.

#### **Comprehension and Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text**

3.2.2 Ask questions and support answers by connecting prior knowledge with literal information from the text.

Example: When reading informational materials about science topics or social science subjects, compare what is read to background knowledge about the subject.

3.2.3 Show understanding by identifying answers in the text.

Example: After generating a question about information in a text, skim and scan the remaining text to find the answer to the question.

3.2.4 Recall major points in the text and make and revise predictions about what is read.

Example: Read a story, such as *Storm in the Night* by Mary Slattery Stolz or part of *Ramona Quinby* by Beverly Cleary, and predict what is going to happen next in the story. Confirm or revise the prediction based on further reading.

3.2.5 Distinguish the main idea and supporting details in expository (informational) text.

Example: Read an informational text, such as *The Magic School Bus Inside the Earth* by Joanna Cole or *Volcano* by Christopher Lampton, and make a chart listing the main ideas from the text and the details that support them.

3.2.6 Locate appropriate and significant information from the text, including problems and solutions.

Example: Identify the problem faced by a character in a book, such as *A Gift for Tia Rosa* by Karen T. Taha, and explain how the character solved his or her problem. Identify how problems can form the motivations for new discoveries or inventions by reading informational texts about famous inventors, scientists, or explorers, such as Thomas Edison or Jonas Salk.

3.2.7 Follow simple multiple-step written instructions.

3.2.8 Distinguish between cause and effect and between fact and opinion in informational text.

3.2.9 Identify text that uses sequence or other logical order (alphabetical, time, categorical).



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#### **Standard 3 – READING: Literary Response and Analysis**

Students read and respond to a wide variety of significant works of children’s literature. They identify and discuss the characters, theme (the main idea of a story), plot (what happens in a story), and the setting (where a story takes place) of stories that they read.

#### **Structural Features of Literature**

3.3.1 Recognize different common genres (types) of literature, such as poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction.

Example: Look at the same topic, such as cranes, and see how it is shown differently in various forms of literature, such as the poem “*On the Run*” by Douglas Florian, the play *The Crane Wife* by Sumiko Yagawa, Anne Laurin’s fictional book *Perfect Crane*, and the nonfiction counting book *Counting Cranes* by Mary Beth Owens.

#### **Narrative Analysis of Grade-Level-Appropriate Text**

3.3.2 Comprehend basic plots of classic fairy tales, myths, folktales, legends, and fables from around the world.

Example: Read and discuss the plots of the folktales from around the world that explain why animals are the way they are, such as *Why Mosquitos Buzz in People’s Ears* retold by Verna Aardema or *How the Leopard Got Its Spots* by Jusine and Ron Fontes. Plot each story onto a story map.

3.3.3 Determine what characters are like by what they say or do and by how the author or illustrator portrays them.

Example: Discuss and write about the comical aspects of the motorcycle-riding mouse, Ralph S. Mouse, the main character in Beverly Cleary’s book by the same name.

3.3.4 Determine the theme or author’s message in fiction and nonfiction text.

Example: Look at the admirable qualities in Abraham Lincoln as shown in both the fictional story, *More than Halfway There* by Janet Halliday Erin, and the nonfiction biography, *Abe Lincoln’s Hat* by Martha Brenner.

3.3.5 Recognize that certain words and rhythmic patterns can be used in a selection to imitate sounds.

Example: Discuss the different words that are used to imitate sounds. To explore these words further, read a book on the topic, such as *Cock-a-doodle doo!: What Does It Sound Like to You?* by Marc Robinson, in which the author discusses the words that various languages use for such sounds as a dog’s bark, a train’s whistle, and water dripping.

3.3.6 Identify the speaker or narrator in a selection.

Example: Read a book, such as *Class Clown* by Johanna Hurwitz or *Dinner at Aunt Connie’s House* by Faith Ringgold, and identify who is telling the story. Share examples from the story for how the reader can tell that it is told by what character.

3.3.7 Compare and contrast versions of the same stories from different cultures.

3.3.8 Identify the problem and solutions in a story.



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#### **Standard 4 – WRITING: Writing Process**

*Students find and discuss ideas for writing and keep a list of writing ideas. Students write clear sentences and paragraphs that develop a central idea. Students progress through the stages of the writing process, including prewriting, drafting, revising and editing multiple drafts.*

##### **Organization and Focus**

- 3.4.1 Find ideas for writing stories and descriptions in conversations with others, and in books, magazines, school textbooks, or on the Internet.
- 3.4.2 Discuss ideas for writing, use diagrams and charts to develop ideas, and make a list or notebook of ideas.
- 3.4.3 Create single paragraphs with topic sentences and simple supporting facts and details.
- 3.4.9 Organize related ideas together within a paragraph to maintain a consistent focus.

##### **Research and Technology**

- 3.4.4 Use various reference materials (such as a dictionary, thesaurus, atlas, encyclopedia, and online resources).
- 3.4.5 Use a computer to draft, revise, and publish writing.

##### **Evaluation and Revision**

- 3.4.6 Review, evaluate, and revise writing for meaning and clarity.
- 3.4.7 Proofread one's own writing, as well as that of others, using an editing checklist or list of rules.
- 3.4.8 Revise writing for others to read, improving the focus and progression of ideas.



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#### **Standard 5 – Writing Applications** **(Different Types of Writing and Their Characteristics)**

At Grade 3, students continue to write compositions that describe and explain familiar objects, events, and experiences. Students write both informal and formal letters. Student writing demonstrates a command of Standard English and the drafting, research, and organizational strategies outlined in Standard 4 – Writing Process. Writing demonstrates an awareness of the audience (intended reader) and purpose for writing.

In addition to producing the different writing forms introduced in earlier grades, Grade 3 students, use the writing strategies outlined in Standard 4 – Writing Process to:

##### 3.5.1 Write narratives (stories) that:

- provide a context within which an action takes place.
- include details to develop the plot.

Example: Write a story based on an article in a magazine, such as *Crick* or *Stone Soup*, about what life was like 100 year ago.

##### 3.5.2 Write descriptive pieces about people, places, things, or experiences that:

- develop a unified main idea.
- use details to support the main idea.

##### 3.5.6 Write persuasive pieces that ask for an action or response.

##### 3.5.3 Write personal, persuasive, and formal letters, thank-you notes, and invitations that:

- Show awareness of the knowledge and interests of the audience and establish a purpose and context.
- Include the date, proper salutation, body, closing, and signature.

Example: Write a letter to a pen pal in another country describing your family, school, and town and asking the pen pal questions about himself or herself. Write an invitation asking an adult to come to speak in the classroom. Write a persuasive letter to your family asking for your favorite foods on your birthday.

##### 3.5.4 Use varied word choices to make writing interesting.

Example: Write stories using varied words, such as *cried*, *yelled*, or *whispered* instead of *said*.

##### 3.5.5 Write for different purposes and to a specific audience or person.

Example: Write an article about the library at your school. Include a list of ways that students use the library.

##### 3.5.7 Write responses to literature that:

- demonstrate an understanding of what is read.
- support statements with evidence from the text.



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#### Research Application

- 3.5.8 Write or deliver a research report that has been developed using a systematic research process (defines the topic, gathers information, determines credibility, reports findings) and that:
- uses a variety of sources (books, technology, pictures, charts, tables of contents, diagrams) and documents sources (titles and authors).
  - organizes information by categorizing it into more than one category (such as living and nonliving, hot and cold) or includes information gained through observation.



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#### **Standard 6 – WRITING: Written English Language Conventions**

Students write using Standard English conventions appropriate to this grade level.

##### **Handwriting**

3.6.1 Write legibly in cursive, leaving space between letters in a word, between words in a sentence, and between words and the edges of the paper.

##### **Sentence Structure**

3.6.2 Write correctly complete sentences of statement, command, question, or exclamation, with final punctuation.

- Declarative: This tastes very good.
- Imperative: Please take your seats
- Interrogative: Are we there yet?
- Exclamatory: It's a home run!

##### **Grammar**

3.6.3 Identify and use subjects and verbs that are in agreement (we are instead of we is).

3.6.4 Identify and use past (he danced), present (he dances), and future (he will dance) verb tenses properly in writing.

3.6.5 Identify and correctly use pronouns (*it, him, her*), adjectives (*brown eyes, two younger sisters*), compound nouns (*summertime, snowflakes*), and articles (*a, an, the*) in writing.

##### **Punctuation**

3.6.6 Use commas in dates (*August 15, 2005*), locations (*Hyattsville, Maryland*), and addresses (*362 Indiana Court, Silver Lake, Montana*), and for items in a series (*football, basketball, soccer, and tennis*).

##### **Capitalization**

3.6.7 Capitalize correctly geographical names, holidays, historical periods, and special events (We always celebrate Christmas Day by attending Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine.)

##### **Spelling**

3.6.8 Spell correctly one-syllable words that have blends (*walk, play, or blend*), contractions (*isn't, can't*), compounds, common spelling patterns (*qu-*, changing win to winning, and changing the ending of a word from *-y* to *-ies* to make a plural, such as *cherry/cherries*), and common homophones (words that sound the same but have different spellings such as *hair-hare*).

3.6.9 Arrange words in alphabetical order.

Example: Given a list of words, such as apple, grapefruit, cherry, banana, pineapple, and peach, put them into correct alphabetical order: apple, banana, cherry, grapefruit, peach, pineapple.



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#### **Standard 7 – LISTENING AND SPEAKING: Listening and Speaking Skills, Strategies, and Applications**

*Students listen critically and respond appropriately to oral communication. They speak in a manner that guides the listener to understand important ideas by using proper phrasing, pitch, and modulation (raising and lowering voice). Students deliver brief oral presentations about familiar experiences or interests that are organized around a coherent thesis statement (a statement of topic). Students use the same Standard English conventions for oral speech that they use in their writing.*

##### **Comprehension**

- 3.7.1 Retell, paraphrase, and explain what a speaker has said.
- 3.7.2 Connect and relate experiences and ideas to those of a speaker.
- 3.7.3 Answer questions completely and appropriately.
- 3.7.4 Identify the musical elements of literary language, such as rhymes, repeated sounds, and instances of onomatopoeia (naming something by using a sound associated with it, such as *hiss* or *buzz*).
- 3.7.15 Follow three- and four-step oral directions.

##### **Organization and Delivery of Oral Communication**

- 3.7.5 Organize ideas chronologically (in the order that they happened) or around major points of information.
- 3.7.6 Provide a beginning, a middle, and an end to oral presentations, including details that develop a central idea.
- 3.7.7 Use clear and specific vocabulary to communicate ideas and establish the tone.
- 3.7.8 Clarify and enhance oral presentations through the use of appropriate props, including objects, pictures, and charts.
- 3.7.9 Read prose and poetry aloud with fluency, rhythm, and timing, using appropriate changes in the tone of voice to emphasize important passages of the text being read.

##### **Analysis and Evaluation of Oral and Media Communications**

- 3.7.10 Compare ideas and points of view expressed in broadcast, print media, or the Internet.
- 3.7.11 Distinguish between the speaker's opinions and verifiable facts.
- 3.7.16 Evaluate different evidence (facts, statistics, quotes, testimonials) used to support claims.

##### **Speaking Applications**

- 3.7.12 Make brief narrative (story) presentations that:
  - Provide a context for an event that is the subject of the presentation
  - Provide insight into why the selected event should be of interest to the audience.
  - Include well-chosen details to develop characters, setting, and plot.
- 3.7.13 Plan and present dramatic interpretations of experiences, stories, poems, or plays.
- 3.7.14 Make descriptive presentations that use concrete sensory details to set forth and support unified impressions of people, places, things, or experiences.