



Stafford County Public Schools

English/Language Arts– Grade 7

The seventh-grade student will continue to develop oral communication skills and will become more knowledgeable of the effects of verbal and nonverbal behaviors in oral communication. The student will continue to read a wide variety of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry while becoming more independent and analytical. The student will continue to refine written composition skills, with special attention to word choice, organization, style, and grammar. Written explanations will utilize informational writing skills. The student will continue vocabulary development through a study of figurative language and continuing study of roots, affixes, and cognates. Knowledge of the informative/persuasive techniques of media messages will be studied. The student will apply research techniques to gather, organize, and communicate information, properly citing sources. The student will also demonstrate correct use of language, spelling, and mechanics by applying grammatical conventions in writing and speaking.

Communication and Multimodal Literacies

The student will participate in and contribute to conversations, group discussions, and oral presentations.

- Use a variety of strategies to listen actively and speak using agreed-upon discussion rules with awareness of verbal and nonverbal cues.
- Clearly communicate ideas and information orally in an organized and succinct manner.
- Ask probing questions to seek elaboration and clarification of ideas.
- Participate in collaborative discussions with partners, building on others' ideas.
- Make statements to communicate agreement or tactful disagreement with others' ideas.
- Use language and style appropriate to audience, topic, and purpose.
- Give formal and informal presentations in a group or individually, providing evidence to support a main idea.
- Work effectively and respectfully within diverse groups.
- Exhibit willingness to make necessary compromises to accomplish a goal.
- Share responsibility for collaborative work.

The student will create multimodal presentations both individually and in a group that effectively communicate ideas.

- Select, organize, and create content to complement and extend meaning for a selected topic.
- Use effective verbal and nonverbal communication skills to deliver multimodal presentations.
- Use language and vocabulary appropriate to audience, topic, and purpose.
- Paraphrase and summarize a speaker's key ideas.

The student will examine the elements of media literacy.

- Identify persuasive/informative techniques used in media.
 - Distinguish between fact and opinion, and between evidence and inference.
 - Describe how word choice, visual images, and sound convey a viewpoint.
 - Compare and contrast the effectiveness of techniques in auditory, visual, and written media messages.
 - Craft and publish audience-specific media messages.
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Reading

The student will read and determine the meanings of unfamiliar words and phrases within authentic texts.

- Identify word origins and derivations.
- Use roots, affixes, synonyms, and antonyms to expand vocabulary.
- Identify and analyze the construction and impact of figurative language.
- Identify connotations.
- Use context and sentence structure to determine meanings and differentiate among multiple meanings of words.
- Use word-reference materials to determine meanings and etymology.
- Extend general and cross-curricular vocabulary through speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of fictional texts, literary nonfiction, poetry, and drama.

- Describe the elements of narrative structure including setting, character development, plot, theme, and conflict and how they influence each other.
- Identify and explain the theme(s).
- Identify cause-and-effect relationships and their impact on plot.
- Differentiate between first and third person point of view.
- Identify elements and characteristics of a variety of genres.
- Compare and contrast various forms and genres of fictional text.
- Describe the impact of word choice, imagery, and literary devices, including figurative language, in an author's style.
- Compare/contrast details in literary and informational nonfiction texts.
- Make inferences and draw conclusions based on the text.
- Use reading strategies to monitor comprehension throughout the reading process.

The student will read and demonstrate comprehension of a variety of nonfiction texts.

- Skim materials using text features including type, headings, and graphics to predict and categorize information.
 - Identify an author's organizational pattern using textual clues, such as transitional words and phrases.
 - Make inferences and draw logical conclusions using explicit and implied textual evidence.
 - Differentiate between fact and opinion.
 - Identify the source, viewpoint, and purpose of texts.
 - Describe how word choice and language structure convey an author's viewpoint.
 - Identify the main idea.
 - Summarize text identifying supporting details.
 - Create an objective summary, including main idea and supporting details.
 - Identify cause-and-effect relationships.
 - Organize and synthesize information for use in written and other formats.
 - Analyze ideas within and between selections providing textual evidence.
 - Use reading strategies to monitor comprehension throughout the reading process.
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Writing

The student will write in a variety of forms to include narrative, expository, persuasive, and reflective, with an emphasis on expository and persuasive writing.

- Engage in writing as a recursive process.
- Choose intended audience and purpose.
- Use a variety of prewriting strategies to generate and organize ideas.
- Organize writing structure to fit form or topic.
- Establish a central idea incorporating evidence, while maintaining an organized structure and a formal style.
- Compose a thesis statement for persuasive writing that includes a position.
- Clearly state a position and organize reasons and evidence, using credible sources.
- Distinguish between fact and opinion to support a position.
- Write multiparagraph compositions with elaboration and unity.
- Use transition words and phrases within and between paragraphs.
- Develop and modify the central idea, tone, and voice to fit the audience and purpose.
- Expand and embed ideas by using modifiers, standard coordination, and subordination in complete sentences.
- Use clauses and phrases for sentence variety.
- Revise writing for clarity of content including specific vocabulary and information.

The student will self-and peer-edit writing for capitalization, punctuation, spelling, sentence structure, paragraphing, and Standard English.

- Choose appropriate adjectives and adverbs to enhance writing.
 - Use pronoun-antecedent agreement to include indefinite pronouns.
 - Use subject-verb agreement with intervening phrases and clauses.
 - Edit for verb tense consistency and point of view.
 - Use quotation marks with dialogue and direct quotations.
 - Use correct spelling for commonly used words.
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Research

The student will find, evaluate, and select appropriate resources to create a research product.

- Formulate and revise questions about a research topic.
 - Collect, organize, and synthesize information from multiple sources.
 - Analyze and evaluate the validity and credibility of resources.
 - Quote, summarize, and paraphrase information from primary and secondary sources using proper citations.
 - Avoid plagiarism by using own words and follow ethical and legal guidelines for gathering and using information.
 - Demonstrate ethical use of the Internet.
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Resources: Stafford County Public Schools: www.staffordschools.net

Virginia Department of Education SOLs for English: http://www.doe.virginia.gov/testing/sol/standards_docs/english/review.shtml