

Wapsie Valley Community Schools
Standards and Benchmarks
Language Arts
Kindergarten

Standard 1: The student uses the reading process to comprehend print.

Benchmark: The student applies a wide range of research-based strategies to comprehend text.

- Predicts, verifies or refines predictions; comprehends details, and draws conclusions when a story is read to them
- Classifies and categorizes to comprehend
- Identifies sequence and determines cause and effect to understand stated information
- Locates the beginning and end of the text
- Uses words and pictures to read a story
- Identifies the most important detail when looking at pictures
- Distinguishes between real and imaginary
- Makes connections to background knowledge
- Contributes to group graphic organizers before, during, and after reading

Benchmark: The student recognizes and understands vocabulary.

- Identifies high-frequency words (36 basal, color, days of week)
- Recognizes environmental print
- Understands selection vocabulary
- Uses picture cues to determine word meaning
- Engages in meaningful experiences, discussion, and reading in order to acquire vocabulary

Benchmark: The student uses phonics and structural analysis to decode unknown words.

- Demonstrates one-to-one correspondence of words
- Recognizes alphabet
- Uses phonics and structural analysis to decode words (consonants, short vowels, inflectional endings)
- Demonstrates phonemic awareness (rhyming words, word family patterns, syllables, isolating and matching initial and ending sounds, blending sounds, and segmenting)
- Decodes CVC words

Benchmark: The student reads fluently.

- Reads smoothly at developmental level, with appropriate phrasing and pace.

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Standard 2: The student reads for a variety of purposes and across content areas.

Benchmark: The student analyzes story elements and literary devices within a variety of genre.

- Compares and contrasts characters across various texts
- Knows that stories have a beginning, middle, and end
- Recalls and retells text
- Discusses events in literature from a variety of cultures and relate them to their own experiences
- Synthesizes and extends the literary experience (through drawing, dramatizing, miming, storytelling)
- Recognizes poetry forms: acrostic

Benchmark: The student applies knowledge of text features and structures to comprehend informational text.

- Retells from informational texts
- Identifies and discusses simple maps, charts, and graphs
- Classifies, compares, and contrasts information
- Understands main ideas and supporting details, sequence and cause/effect text structure

Benchmark: The student reads independently for a variety of purposes.

- Predominately reads orally with an adult or independently with familiar materials
- Derives pleasure from reading
- Values print as a means of gaining information.
- Values print as a means of assessing various opinions and points of view
- Seeks additional literary experience through varied voluntary reading
- Responds to text read to them by drawing pictures and writing some words

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Standard 3: The student uses the writing process to communicate effectively.

Benchmark: The student applies a variety of strategies for composing a coherent message.

- Develops concept of print (print conveys meaning)
- Engages in modeled, shared, and interactive writing
- Generates content and topics for writing
- Prewrites (draws a picture)
- Collaboratively organizes ideas (simple graphic organizer, simple outline, etc.)
- Expresses thought in complete sentences
- Develops draft (labels, writes ideas/sentence)
- Pauses voluntarily in the midst of writing to reread what was written (tracking)

Benchmark: The student demonstrates personal voice, clarity of language, and effective word choice.

- Categorizes key concepts and related ideas through pictures, developmental spelling, and some conventional spelling
- Communicates ideas through pictures and simple words
- Dictates stories that draw on personal experiences
- Uses some favorite words from the books read

Benchmark: The student produces legible writing that is grammatically and mechanically correct.

- Forms manuscript letters according to adopted curriculum
- Applies directionality in writing: top/bottom, left/right
- Uses appropriate spacing between words, sentences
- Spells using letters and letter-sound correspondences (correct first letter and phonetically related)
- Takes pride in neat and correct visual appearance
- Uses the syntax of oral language
- Uses capital letters at the beginning of a sentence, pronoun I, and names
- Uses ending punctuation (period) when writing sentences

Benchmark: The student writes fluently when prompted.

- Gains increasing control of manuscript (holding pencil, paper position, stroke, posture)
- Writes without resistance when given the time, place, and materials
- Writes daily

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Standard 4: The student writes for a variety of purposes and across content areas.

Benchmark: The student uses knowledge of purpose, audience, text structure, and format in developing various forms of narrative, poetic, and expository text.

- Writes class innovations based on selections read using patterned literature
- Writes about experiences, stories, people, objects, or events
- Produces narratives that contain a “story” that may be only a single event or several events loosely linked
- Uses writing to tell someone what to do
- Uses writing to name or label objects and places in order to inform others

Benchmark: The student uses writing as a tool for learning.

- Develops awareness that composition conveys and preserves meaning
- Records learning or ideas by writing words
- Writes labels

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Standard 5: The student interacts effectively as a speaker.

Benchmark: The student demonstrates control of delivery skills.

- Maintains eye contact
- Takes turns when speaking
- Maintains a topic when speaking
- Speaks confidently in an audible voice in a variety of situations: to an individual/group
- Gains increasing control of conventional grammar and usage when speaking

Benchmark: The student uses oral language to communicate ideas appropriate to the time, place, occasion, purpose, and audience.

- Shares information and ideas
- Describes common objects and events in both general and specific language
- Relates an experience or creative story in a logical sequence
- Describes people, places, things, locations and actions
- Discusses basic plot, characters, and setting of simple stories and responds by oral retelling
- Tells about the roles of author and illustrator
- Speaks for various purposes
- Role-plays and uses creative movement to express ideas
- Expresses feelings and opinions about stories read aloud

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Standard 6: The student interacts effectively as a listener.

Benchmark: The student demonstrates the behaviors of active listening

- Maintains eye contact with the speaker
- Demonstrates attentive body language
- Listens attentively and responsively

Benchmark: The student uses listening skills to process information.

- Develops vocabulary through listening
- Predicts and comprehends story elements (characters, setting, goal, problem, and solution) when a story is read to them
- Compares and contrasts ideas related to one issue when presented orally from several texts and from teacher-led discussions
- Actively listens to and responds to both classic and contemporary literature
- Monitors comprehension while listening to oral text and messages
- Follows one- and two- step directions
- Understands sequence, description, and cause/effect text structure
- Understands and retells text and messages heard

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Standard 7: The student creates, interprets and evaluates a variety of media.

Benchmark: The student uses knowledge of purpose, audience, and structure of various media to enhance learning.

- Recognizes environmental print
- Enjoys and discusses a variety of illustrations and illustrators
- Describes how illustrations contribute to the text
- “Reads” illustrations for details
- Describes/discusses information gathered from illustrations, visuals, and media
- Illustrates familiar stories and stories read to class
- Draws picture to communicate
- Creates technological images (i.e. KidPix, Kidspiration)

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Standard 8: The student investigates issues and ideas using a variety of sources.

Benchmark: The student accesses data from oral, print, and electronic media.

- Asks questions to focus search for information
- Demonstrates an awareness of sources of information
- Locates and collects information

Benchmark: The student interprets, evaluates, and synthesizes information to enhance learning.

- Contributes to group graphic organizers and story maps