

Golda Meir Lower School

K-5 Language Arts Curriculum

San Diego Jewish Academy's K-5 Language Arts curriculum includes the skills of reading, writing, and communicating. In order to be competent in Language Arts, students must demonstrate grade-level mastery of these four major areas:

1. **Speaking and Listening:**

SDJA students develop oral language skills in listening and speaking and master the written language skills of reading and writing. Through linguistic oral communication, logical thinking develops and makes possible critical thinking, reasoning, development of information literacy, application of collaboration skills, self-direction, and invention.

2. **Reading for All Purposes:**

Literacy skills are essential for students to fully participate in and expand their understanding of today's global society. Whether they are reading functional texts (voting ballots, a map, a train schedule, a driver's test, a job application, product labels); reference materials (textbooks, technical manuals, electronic media); or print and non-print literary texts, students need reading skills to fully manage, evaluate, and use the myriad information available in their day-to-day lives.

3. **Writing and Composition:**

Writing is a fundamental component of literacy. Writing is a means of critical inquiry; it promotes problem-solving and mastering new concepts. Adept writers can work through various ideas while producing informational, persuasive, and narrative or literary texts. In other words, writing can be used as a medium for reasoning and making intellectual connections. As students arrange ideas to persuade, describe, and inform, they engage in logical critique, and they are likely to gain new insights and a deeper understanding of concepts and content.

4. **Research and Reasoning:**

Research and reasoning skills are pertinent for success in a postsecondary and workforce setting. Students need to acquire these skills throughout their schooling. This means students need to be able to distinguish their own ideas from information created or discovered by others, understand the importance of creating authentic works, and correctly cite sources to give credit to the author of the original work.

Kindergarten

English Language Arts in Kindergarten focuses on developing motivated, strategic, constructive, fluent, and independent readers, writers and communicators. Students will develop skills for small group and whole group conversations and apply foundational skills for reading and writing using and creating a variety of literature and informational texts.

Standards	Grade Level Expectations
1. Speaking and Listening	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Communicate effectively while describing familiar people, places, things and events.2. Engage effectively in collaborative discussions.3. Hear, identify and use syllables and sounds in spoken words to make meaning.
2. Reading for All Purposes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use a range of strategies efficiently to construct meaning while reading literature.2. Use a range of strategies efficiently to construct meaning while reading informational texts.3. Use concepts of print and the understanding of spoken words to apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills to decode words.4. Read texts for meaning, to gain confidence, and fluency.5. Use a range of strategies to determine and use new words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading or being read to, and responding to texts.
3. Writing and Composition	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Plan, organize, write, and publish narratives.2. Plan, organize, write, and publish informative/explanatory and opinion pieces.3. Apply conventions of standard English grammar and usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling consistently.
4. Research and Reasoning	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Participate in shared research projects by recalling information from experiences and gathering information from sources to answer questions.

First Grade

English Language Arts in First Grade focuses on developing motivated, strategic, constructive, fluent and independent readers, writers and communicators. The emphasis is on continued development of oral language abilities and exploring reading and writing processes. Students will read literature and informational texts and express their understandings both orally and in writing. Students will also develop inquiry skills to gather, organize and share information.

Standards	Grade Level Expectations
1. Speaking and Listening	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Communicate effectively while describing familiar people, places, things and events.2. Engage effectively in collaborative discussions.3. Hear, identify and use syllables and sounds in spoken words to make meaning.
2. Reading for All Purposes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use a range of strategies efficiently to construct meaning while reading literature.2. Use a range of strategies efficiently to construct meaning while reading informational texts.3. Use concepts of print and the understanding of spoken words to apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills to decode words.4. Read fluently with varied expression and sufficient accuracy to support comprehension.5. Use a range of strategies to determine and use new words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading or being read to, and responding to texts.
3. Writing and Composition	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Plan, organize, write, and publish narratives.2. Plan, organize, write, and publish informative/explanatory and opinion pieces.3. Apply conventions of standard English grammar and usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling consistently.
4. Research and Reasoning	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Participate in shared research projects by recalling information from experiences and gathering information from sources to answer questions.

Second Grade

English Language Arts in Second Grade focuses on developing motivated, strategic, constructive, fluent and independent readers, writers and communicators. The emphasis is on continued development of oral language abilities and using reading and writing processes. Students will read literature and informational texts and express their thinking both orally and in writing. Students will continue to develop inquiry skills to gather, organize and share information.

Standards	Grade Level Expectations
1. Speaking and Listening	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Communicate effectively while describing familiar people, places, things and events.2. Engage effectively in collaborative discussions.3. Hear, identify and use syllables and sounds in spoken words to make meaning.
2. Reading for All Purposes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use a range of strategies efficiently to construct meaning while reading literature.2. Use a range of strategies efficiently to construct meaning while reading informational texts.3. Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills to decode words.4. Read fluently with varied expression and sufficient accuracy to support comprehension.5. Use a range of strategies to determine and use new words and phrases acquired through conversations, reading or being read to, and responding to texts.
3. Writing and Composition	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Plan, organize, write, and publish narratives.2. Plan, organize, write, and publish informative/explanatory and opinion pieces for a variety of audiences and purposes.3. Apply conventions of standard English grammar and usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling consistently.
4. Research and Reasoning	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Participate in shared research projects by recalling information from experiences and gathering information from sources to answer questions.

Third Grade

English Language Arts in Third Grade focuses on developing motivated, strategic, constructive, fluent and independent readers, writers and communicators. The emphasis is on extending oral language abilities and the use of reading and writing processes. Students will read literature and informational texts. They will express their thinking and support opinions using textual evidence both orally and in writing. Students will also use research skills and tools to gather, organize and share information.

Standards	Grade Level Expectations
1. Speaking and Listening	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Communicate effectively while reporting on a topic, telling a story, or recounting an experience.2. Prepare for and engages effectively in collaborative discussions.
2. Reading for All Purposes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use a range of strategies efficiently to construct meaning while reading literature.2. Use a range of strategies efficiently to construct meaning while reading informational texts.3. Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills to decode words.4. Read fluently with varied expression and sufficient accuracy to support comprehension.5. Use a range of vocabulary learning strategies to acquire and use grade-appropriate words and phrases.
3. Writing and Composition	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use the recursive writing process to create narratives and poems for intended audiences and purposes.2. Use the recursive writing process to create informative/explanatory and opinion pieces for a variety of audiences and purposes.3. Apply conventions of standard English grammar and usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling consistently.
4. Research and Reasoning	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Conducts and shares research by taking notes and sorting evidence into categories.

Fourth Grade

English Language Arts in Fourth Grade focuses on developing motivated, strategic, constructive, fluent and independent readers, writers and communicators. The emphasis is on extending development of oral language abilities and the use of reading and writing processes. Students will read literature and informational texts. They will share responses, express understandings and support opinions using textual evidence both orally and in writing. Students will also use research skills and tools to gather, organize, summarize and present information.

Standards	Grade Level Expectations
1. Speaking and Listening	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Communicate effectively while reporting on a topic, telling a story, or recounting an experience.2. Listen to others' ideas, forms own opinions and engage effectively in collaborative discussions.
2. Reading for All Purposes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use a range of strategies efficiently to construct meaning while reading literature.2. Use a range of strategies efficiently to construct meaning while reading informational texts.3. Use a range of decoding and vocabulary learning strategies to acquire and use grade-appropriate words and phrases.4. Read fluently with varied expression and sufficient accuracy to support comprehension.
3. Writing and Composition	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use the recursive writing process to create narratives and poems for intended audiences and purposes.2. Use the recursive writing process to create informative/explanatory and opinion pieces for a variety of audiences and purposes.3. Apply conventions of standard English grammar and usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling consistently.
4. Research and Reasoning	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Conducts and shares research by taking notes and categorizing information on different aspects of a topic.2. Use evidence from research and logical reasoning to support own analysis and reflection.

Fifth Grade

English Language Arts in Fifth Grade continues the advancement of motivated, strategic, constructive, fluent and independent readers, writers, and communicators. The emphasis is on extending oral language abilities and the use of reading and writing processes. Students will read literature and informational texts. They will share responses, express understandings and support opinions using textual evidence both orally and in writing. Students will also use research skills and tools to gather, organize, summarize and present information.

Standards	Grade Level Expectations
1. Speaking and Listening	1. Communicate effectively while expressing an opinion, sharing information, describing a process, or persuading an audience. 2. Listen to others' ideas, forms own opinions and engage effectively in collaborative discussions.
2. Reading for All Purposes	1. Use a range of strategies efficiently to construct meaning while reading literature. 2. Use a range of strategies efficiently to construct meaning while reading informational texts. 3. Use a range of strategies to acquire and use grade-appropriate words and phrases. 4. Read fluently with varied expression and sufficient accuracy to support comprehension.
3. Writing and Composition	1. Use the recursive writing process to create narratives and poems for intended audiences and purposes. 2. Use the recursive writing process to create informative/explanatory and opinion pieces for a variety of audiences and purposes. 3. Apply conventions of standard English grammar and usage, capitalization, punctuation, and spelling consistently.
4. Research and Reasoning	1. Conduct and present relevant research that summarizes or paraphrases different aspects of a topic. 2. Use evidence from research and logical reasoning to support own analysis and reflection.