

District 89

Sixth – Eighth Grade Literacy Benchmarks

A District 89 student in 6th – 8th grade demonstrates skills learned in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade and . . .

Word Analysis and Vocabulary

- Expands listening and reading vocabulary through a variety of strategies.
- Applies a variety of word meaning strategies before, during, and after reading.
- Assesses authors' word choices and identifies effect of literary devices.
- Applies word identification strategies, such as: structural analysis, denotation, connotation, multiple meanings in context, and word origin to enhance reading independence.

Comprehension and Fluency

- Uses pre-reading strategies, such as: skimming to preview reading materials and scanning to see visual patterns and identify text structure before reading, asks questions, takes notes, and summarizes.
- Applies these strategies to fiction and nonfiction texts within and across content areas.
- Participates in proficient reader strategies, such as: applying self-monitoring techniques and adjusting rate to increase comprehension.
- Continues using strategies after reading to increase understanding, such as: demonstrating understanding of text structure through use of graphic organizers and outlining, summarizing, inferring, and drawing conclusions.
- Reads a variety of materials for different viewpoints.
- Identifies story elements, major and secondary themes, and topics in text.
- Recognizes various types of poetry (free verse, haiku, limerick, lyric, and narrative).
- Recognizes literary elements, such as: personification, alliteration, hyperbole, foreshadowing, irony, etc.
- Recognizes examples of traditional literature and nonfiction materials.
- Responds to literature through art, drama, music, puppetry, and oral reading.
- Selects material of high quality for personal reading.

Writing and Spelling

- Uses writing process (prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing) to produce well-developed expository, narrative, persuasive pieces, extended responses to literature, and multiple page reports with MLA citations.
- Uses prewriting strategies, such as: webbing, brainstorming, listing, note taking, outlining, and graphic organizers.
- Develops multi-paragraph compositions that include a variety of sentence structure and sentence types.
- Produces writing with appropriate focus, support/elaboration, organization, mechanics/grammar, and integration.
- Uses transitional words and phrases within and between paragraphs.
- Edits and revises to maintain a consistent tone and focus throughout a piece of writing.
- Writes creatively for specified purpose and audience, such as: short story, poetry, rap, play, parody, song, and letters.
- Presents and discusses own writing with other students.
- Responds constructively to other students' compositions.
- Uses varied and descriptive vocabulary to enrich written language.
- Spells District 89 high frequency words and previously learned spelling and vocabulary words correctly in written work.

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Listening and Speaking

- Listens critically and analytically.
- Recalls content (main idea and details) of message.
- Infers and draw conclusion, synthesizes, analyzes, and evaluates information in presentations or messages
- Contributes constructively and politely to small and large group discussions with relevant responses, and respectful listening behaviors.
- Delivers oral presentations that are coherent, well organized, and rehearsed.
- Employs an engaging introduction, appropriate organization, and effective conclusion for oral presentations.
- Uses physical movements and nonverbal expressions to communicate message.
- Uses spoken language that is clear, audible, and appropriate.