

Essential Standards and Course Descriptions

Grade 5 Writer's Workshop

Hortonville Middle School | Greenville Middle School

The following document has been created with our parents in mind. The purpose is to communicate with parents related to the 'essential standards' being taught for every subject and in every grade level. Included is also a brief course description written by a collaborative team of teachers representing both middle schools. As a school district, we believe very strongly that although we have two unique middle schools, both schools must ensure a guaranteed and viable curriculum. What this means is that the same 'essential' learning being taught at HMS will also be taught at GMS to ensure that EVERY student, regardless of enrollment, will be prepared to enter Hortonville High School having learned prioritized academic and behavioral expectations.

What is an 'essential standard'? Every school district adopts academic standards for every area of study. The Hortonville Area School District is no different. Unfortunately, not all standards are created equal. This means that some standards have been predetermined by the teaching faculty as most critical or 'essential' for students to learn and demonstrate before moving on to the next grade level. These standards are assessed and reported out to parents on progress reports (formerly called report cards). We sometimes call these our 'must know' standards. This is not to say that all other standards, or 'nice to know standards', are not covered, but they may not be covered to the same level as our 'essential standards'.



Below you will find a listing of courses taught at the 5th grade level in the Hortonville Area School District. Included will also be a brief course description and the 'essential standards' assessed. If you should ever have any questions, we strongly encourage parents to contact our faculty members early and often.

Subject: 5th Grade Writer's Workshop

Course Description: 5th grade writers will select and write in a variety of genres for different purposes expanding on their skills and ability to engage the reader. 5th graders will be introduced to many mentor texts as a resource for enhancing their writing. They will expand their abilities through the following genre pieces:

- **Narrative Writing** Purpose-to tell a story
 - **Examples:** Autobiography, biography, memoir, personal narrative, diary/journal entry, books, plays, short stories, etc.
- **Opinion Writing** Purpose-to persuade
 - **Examples:** letter, essay, editorial, argument, etc.
- **Informational Writing** Purpose-to explain or give facts about a topic
 - **Examples:** feature article, photo essay, essay report, biography, etc.
- **Poetic Writing** Purpose-to express feelings, sensory images, ideas, or stories
 - **Examples:** haiku, limerick, concrete, or cinquain;
 - **Examples:** alliteration, onomatopoeia, simile, metaphor, personification, or idiom
- **Writer's Craft** Purpose-to enhance a writing piece, how the author uses language and storytelling to design a writing piece
 - **Narrative Elements**
 - **Examples:** theme, plot, conflict, foreshadowing, and point of view.
 - **Literary Devices**
 - **Examples:** alliteration, personification, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, and onomatopoeia of language and storytelling to craft a piece of writing.

Essential Standards Assessed:

○ Writing 5.1 – Text Types and Purposes

Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.

- Introduce a topic or text clearly, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure in which ideas are logically grouped to support the writer's purpose.
- Provide logically ordered reasons that are supported by facts and details.
- Link opinion and reasons using words, phrases, and clauses (e.g., consequently, specifically).
- Provide a concluding statement or section related to the opinion presented.

○ Writing 5.8 – Research to Build and Present Knowledge

Recall relevant information from experiences or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; summarize or paraphrase information in notes and finished work, and provide a list of sources.

○ Writing L5.2 – Conventions of Standard English

Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.

- Use punctuation to separate items in a series.
- Use a comma to separate an introductory element from the rest of the sentence.
- Use a comma to set off the words yes and no (e.g., Yes, thank you), to set off a tag question from the rest of the sentence (e.g., It's true, isn't it?), and to indicate direct address (e.g., Is that you, Steve?).
- Use underlining, quotation marks, or italics to indicate titles of works.
- Spell grade-appropriate words correctly, consulting references as needed.

○ Writing L5.5 – Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

Demonstrate understanding of figurative language, word relationships, and nuances in word meanings.

- Interpret figurative language, including similes and metaphors, in context.
- Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms, adages, and proverbs.
- Use the relationship between particular words (e.g., synonyms, antonyms, homographs) to better understand each of the words.

Other Topics Covered:

- Six Traits of Writing
- Writing Process
- Grammar and Usage
- Capitalization
- Punctuation
- Spelling