

## Language Arts Benchmarks and Indicators of Proficiency

### Comprehends fiction and non-fiction text

<i>Grade 7</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Identifies the main idea and key supporting details (NF)</li><li>▪ Identifies the elements of fiction (F)</li><li>▪ Selects and uses relevant information from the text to summarize events and/or ideas (F and NF)</li><li>▪ Distinguishes between fact and opinion (NF)</li><li>▪ Applies comprehension strategies</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Identifies the main idea and key supporting details (NF)</li><li>▪ Identifies the elements of fiction (F)</li><li>▪ Selects and uses relevant information from the text to summarize events and/or ideas (F and NF)</li><li>▪ Distinguishes between fact and opinion (NF)</li><li>▪ Applies comprehension strategies</li></ul>

### Develops and supports an interpretation of the text

<i>Grade 7</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Reacts to text and supports the reaction with stated or implied evidence</li><li>▪ Uses evidence from text to make predictions (F and NF)</li><li>▪ Connects the text to self, other texts and the world</li><li>▪ Draws a conclusion and supports it with stated or implied evidence from the text</li><li>▪ Identifies and justifies themes and author's purposes</li><li>▪ Identifies the structure/organizational pattern of text</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Reacts to text and supports the reaction with stated or implied evidence</li><li>▪ Uses evidence from text to make, affirm and adjust predictions (F and NF)</li><li>▪ Connects the text to self, other texts and the world</li><li>▪ Draws a conclusion and supports it with stated or implied evidence from the text</li><li>▪ Identifies and justifies themes and author's purposes</li><li>▪ Analyzes the structure/organizational pattern of text</li></ul>

### Develops and supports a critical stance

<i>Grade 7</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Analyzes and evaluates the author's craft, including the use of literary devices and textual elements</li><li>▪ Selects, synthesizes and/or uses relevant information within the text(s) to extend or evaluate the text(s)</li><li>▪ Demonstrates an awareness of an author's or character's customs and beliefs included in the text</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Analyzes and evaluates the author's craft, including the use of literary devices and textual elements</li><li>▪ Selects, synthesizes and/or uses relevant information within the text(s) to extend or evaluate the text(s)</li><li>▪ Demonstrates an awareness of an author's or character's customs and beliefs included in the text</li></ul>

**Uses the writing process to craft well-organized and fully supported pieces of writing**

<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Develops a plan for writing based on purpose, audience, and format</li><li>▪ Develops fully supported pieces in a variety of formats</li><li>▪ Applies revision strategies to craft more effective pieces</li><li>▪ Reflects on the process and product of writing</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Develops a plan for writing based on purpose, audience, and format</li><li>▪ Develops fully supported pieces in a variety of formats</li><li>▪ Applies revision strategies to craft more effective pieces</li><li>▪ Reflects on the process and product of writing</li></ul>

**Applies conventions of standard English**

<b>Grade 7</b>	<b>Grade 8</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Applies proper grammar and usage</li><li>▪ Edits and proofreads for proper use of mechanics</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Applies proper grammar and usage</li><li>▪ Edits and proofreads for proper use of mechanics</li></ul>

## Mathematics Benchmarks and Indicators of Proficiency

### Demonstrates efficiency with numbers

<i>Grade 7</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Demonstrates computation skills for whole numbers, fractions, and decimals</li><li>▪ Applies mental math skills when necessary</li><li>▪ Knows correct relationships among fractions, decimals, and percents</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Demonstrates computation skills for whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and integers</li><li>▪ Applies mental math skills when necessary</li><li>▪ Applies correct relationships among fractions, decimals, and percents independently</li></ul>

### Demonstrates ability to apply math concepts to problem solving

<i>Grade 7</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Identifies relevant information to solve a problem</li><li>▪ Applies a variety of strategies to solve problems</li><li>▪ Uses estimation to determine reasonableness of a solution</li><li>▪</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Identifies relevant information to solve a problem</li><li>▪ Applies a variety of strategies to solve problems</li><li>▪ Uses estimation to determine reasonableness of a solution</li><li>▪ Applies proportional thinking to percent problems</li></ul>

### Communicates effectively using precise mathematical terminology

<i>Grade 7</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪</li><li>▪ Communicates with content specific vocabulary</li><li>▪ Explains mathematical thinking in sequential form</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪</li><li>▪ Communicates with content specific vocabulary</li><li>▪ Explains mathematical thinking in sequential form</li></ul>

## Science Benchmarks and Indicators of Proficiency

### Uses systematic observations to define a problem

<i>Grade 7</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Recognizes measurable and testable scientific questions</li><li>▪ Identifies hypotheses</li><li>▪ Identifies relevant factual information</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Generates measurable and testable scientific questions</li><li>▪ Develops hypotheses</li><li>▪ Interprets and explains factual information</li><li>▪ Employs mathematical formulas to define problems</li></ul>

### Conducts experiments to test hypotheses

<i>Grade 7</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Identifies independent and dependent variables</li><li>▪ Identifies appropriate scientific equipment and follows scientific procedures</li><li>▪ Recognizes and records relevant data</li><li>▪ Creates tables, graphs, and charts appropriate to investigations</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Manipulates independent and dependent variables</li><li>▪ Designs and conducts scientific investigations using appropriate scientific equipment and techniques</li><li>▪ Records relevant data</li><li>▪ Creates tables, graphs, and charts appropriate to investigations</li></ul>

### Analyzes data and formulates conclusions

<i>Grade 7</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Recognizes patterns and relationships in data</li><li>▪ Identifies sources of experimental error</li><li>▪ Accepts or rejects hypotheses based on data</li><li>▪ Demonstrates an understanding of how the science content area relates to investigated problems</li><li>▪</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Interprets and analyzes patterns and relationships in data</li><li>▪ Assesses possible sources of experimental error</li><li>▪ Modifies hypotheses based on data</li><li>▪ Demonstrates an understanding of how the science content area relates to investigated problems</li><li>▪ Employs mathematical formulas to analyze problems</li></ul>

### Communicates effectively using precise scientific terminology

<i>Grade 7</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Presents information orally, graphically and in writing</li><li>▪ Develops presentations for a target audience</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Evaluates accuracy of information</li><li>▪ Incorporates technology in presenting information</li><li>▪ Analyzes and prioritizes information relevant to the target audience</li><li>▪ Designs interpretive models correlated to scientific concepts</li></ul>

## Social Studies Benchmarks and Rubrics

### Demonstrates an understanding of the effect of the environment on the development of culture

Grade 7	Grade 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ analyzes the relationships between geographic phenomena (physical features, climate, and natural resources) and the development of ancient and medieval cultures</li> <li>▪ Analyzes and evaluates the effect of geography and environment on social, political and economic systems in the ancient world</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Analyzes the relationships between geographic phenomena and the development of American culture</li> <li>▪ Analyzes and evaluates the effect of geography and environment on social, political, and economic systems in the United States</li> </ul>

### Demonstrates an understanding of diverse cultures and their contributions

Grade 7	Grade 8
<p>Identifies, compares and contrasts the cultural contributions of various ancient and medieval civilizations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Analyzes each civilization's impact on contemporary culture</li> <li>▪ Analyzes and evaluates the role of cultural conflicts in creating technological and social advances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identifies, compares and contrasts the contributions of the diverse cultures that make up the American society</li> </ul> <p>Analyzes the impact of diverse ethnic groups on the development of American culture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Analyzes and evaluates the cause and effect of conflicts on the development of society.</li> </ul>

### Demonstrates an understanding of the influences of different political and economic systems over time and their effects on society

Grade 7	Grade 8
<p>Explains the nature of the social, political and economic systems of ancient and medieval cultures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Evaluates the advantages and disadvantages of each system</li> <li>▪ Analyzes the impact of each system on the world today</li> </ul>	<p>Explains the historical foundations of the American political and economic systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Analyzes the connection between a set of events and what occurs as a result of the events,.</li> <li>▪ Analyzes the impact of the American political and economic systems on today's world</li> </ul>

### Demonstrates an understanding of the rights, roles and responsibilities of citizenship and uses these to make informed decisions

Grade 7	Grade 8
<p>Reads, comprehends and analyzes current and historical primary source documents</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Listens with respect and understanding of others' points of view</li> </ul>
<p>Listens with respect and understanding of others' points of view</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Examines multiple perspectives and then takes a position on an issue, develops a strong argument to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identifies a controversial current question or issue, researches the multiple perspectives</li> </ul>

support the position, and knows how to refute the position of the opposition

associated with that question or issue, and makes recommendations for actions that will address the question or issue.

# World Language Benchmarks and Indicators of Proficiency

## Gains knowledge and understanding of the target language culture

Grade 7	Grade 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identifies cultural practices, perspectives, and products</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identifies cultural practices, perspectives, and products</li></ul>

## Comprehends written materials in the target language

Grade 7	Grade 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reads short and simple paragraphs on a variety of topics</li><li>Answers simple comprehension questions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reads longer, more complex texts on a variety of topics</li><li>Answers more complex comprehension questions with accuracy</li></ul>

## Communicates effectively in writing in the target language

Grade 7	Grade 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Writes simple phrases and sentences with grammatical accuracy and appropriate vocabulary</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Writes paragraphs with increased complexity with grammatical accuracy and appropriate vocabulary</li></ul>

## Demonstrates comprehension of spoken language

Grade 7	Grade 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reacts appropriately to demonstrate comprehension of simple verbal prompts through behavioral, written, and oral responses</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Reacts appropriately to demonstrate comprehension of more complex verbal prompts through behavioral, written, and oral responses</li></ul>

## Produces understandable spoken language

Grade 7	Grade 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Uses simple learned words, phrases, and sentences to communicate</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Uses complex phrases and sentences to communicate</li><li>Demonstrates independence with spoken language</li></ul>

## Physical Education Benchmarks and Indicators of Proficiency

### Demonstrates knowledge and understanding in a variety of activities and sports

Grade 7	Grade 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Demonstrates knowledge of activity rules</li><li>▪ Demonstrates knowledge of specific activity skills</li><li>▪ Applies knowledge of rules and skills in given activities</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Demonstrates knowledge of activity rules</li><li>▪ Demonstrates knowledge of specific activity skills</li><li>▪ Demonstrates consistent application of skills to become more proficient in activities</li></ul>

### Demonstrates rules of sportsmanship and safety

Grade 7	Grade 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Follows safety rules</li><li>▪ Exhibits responsible personal and social behaviors in a physical activity setting</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Follows safety rules</li><li>▪ Maintains self-control, benefiting self and classmates</li></ul>

### Strives to improve and maintain physical fitness

Grade 7	Grade 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Demonstrates training/conditioning needed for state-mandated assessment in a practice mode</li><li>▪ Recognizes the importance of physical activity in maintaining a healthy lifestyle</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Demonstrates training/conditioning needed for state-mandated assessment</li><li>▪ Recognizes the importance of physical activity in maintaining a healthy lifestyle</li></ul>

## Health Benchmarks and Indicators of Proficiency

**Demonstrates an understanding of the importance of maintaining social, physical, and mental/emotional health**

<i>Grade 7</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identifies the influences of heredity, environment, and other external factors on health</li> <li>▪ Recognizes the impact of personal decisions on health</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identifies ways to prevent the spread of communicable diseases and knows their effects on social, physical, and mental/emotional health</li> <li>▪ Recognizes the impact of personal decisions on lifelong health</li> </ul>

**Understands the impact of nutrition and physical activities on health**

<i>Grade 7</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Explains and demonstrates an understanding of the Food Guide Pyramid</li> <li>▪ Recognizes the importance of physical activity and weight control</li> <li>▪ Recognizes the importance of a healthy diet in maintaining a healthy lifestyle</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Knows how to use the Food Guide Pyramid to plan a healthy diet</li> </ul> <p>Understands the correlations between a healthy diet and physical activity in maintaining a healthy lifestyle</p>

**Understands the importance of maintaining a substance-free lifestyle**

<i>Grade 7</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognizes how tobacco, alcohol and other drugs can affect health and safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Recognizes and explains the health risks associated with substance abuse</li> </ul>

## Visual Art Benchmarks and Indicators of Proficiency

### Demonstrates understanding of and appropriately applies art techniques, materials, and processes

Grade 7	Grade 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Selects and applies appropriate materials, tools, and procedures to lesson</li><li>▪ Recognizes the characteristics of 2-D and 3-D media</li><li>▪ Demonstrates consistent application of skills to produce well-finished work</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Selects and applies appropriate materials, tools, and procedures to communicate ideas</li><li>▪ Recognizes and chooses from a variety of 2-D and 3-D media</li><li>▪ Demonstrates consistent application of skills to produce well-finished work</li></ul>

### Understands and applies the appropriate elements and principles of art

Grade 7	Grade 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Identifies and uses the elements of art to compose art works</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Identifies and uses the elements and principles of art to compose art works that effectively communicate ideas</li></ul>

### Chooses, applies, and analyzes a range of subject matter, symbols, and ideas

Grade 7	Grade 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Creates art based on imagination and observation</li><li>▪ Compares and contrasts own work and the work of others in class</li><li>▪ Uses visual art vocabulary to interpret and focus on the elements of art</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Devises creative solutions to visual problems</li><li>▪ Analyzes own purpose in creating works of art</li><li>▪ Uses visual art vocabulary to evaluate and focus on the principles of art</li></ul>

### Understands the visual arts in relation to history, culture, other disciplines, and daily life

Grade 7	Grade 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Identifies characteristics of art representing various cultures, historical periods and artists</li><li>▪ Describes ways in which visual arts and other school subjects are related</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Compares the characteristics of art representing various cultures, historical periods and artists</li><li>▪ Applies visual arts knowledge to solve problems in daily life</li></ul>

## Technology Education Benchmarks and Indicators of Proficiency

### Demonstrates CAD skills being taught

#### Grade 7

- Demonstrates consistent use of appropriate CAD programming skills and terminology
- Completes one-dimensional drawings

#### Grade 8

- Uses CAD programming skills to create architectural designs
- Completes three-dimensional drawings

### Demonstrates knowledge of machines, tools and materials to complete construction projects

#### Grade 7

- Identifies and understands how to use designated machines to complete a wood project
- Applies the proper finishing techniques to a project

#### Grade 8

- Identifies and understands how to use designated machines to complete a wood project
- Applies the proper finishing techniques to a project

### Applies knowledge of materials and procedures to class activities

#### Grade 7

- Selects and applies appropriate materials, tools and processes to a lesson
- Demonstrates ability to design and create solutions to problem-solving activities

#### Grade 8

- Selects and applies appropriate materials, tools and processes to communicate ideas
- Demonstrates ability to design and create solutions to problem-solving activities
- Works successfully in a group to create a multi-faceted project

### Applies safe and appropriate procedures

#### Grade 7

- Follows safety rules as taught and posted
- Uses tools, machines and computer software effectively and safely to complete a project

#### Grade 8

- Follows safety rules as taught and posted
- Uses tools, machines and computer software effectively and safely to complete a project

## Band Benchmarks and Indicators of Proficiency

### Demonstrates appropriate technique on the chosen instrument

<i>Grade 7</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Uses correct embouchure</li> <li>▪ Uses correct fingering and tonguing</li> <li>▪ Coordinates finger positions with appropriate tonguing</li> <li>▪ Plays fluently at a variety of speeds</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates rhythmic accuracy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Uses correct embouchure</li> <li>▪ Uses correct fingering and tonguing</li> <li>▪ Coordinates finger positions with appropriate tonguing</li> <li>▪ Plays fluently at a variety of speeds</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates rhythmic accuracy</li> </ul>

### Demonstrates musical independence on the chosen instrument

<i>Grade 7</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Accurately discriminates differences in posture, embouchure, hand position, and instrument position</li> <li>▪ Accurately discriminates differences in style of articulation, dynamics, intonation, rhythm, melody, tone quality, and expressive nuances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Synthesizes and applies familiar patterns, meters and tonalities in a performance situation</li> <li>▪ Synthesizes and applies familiar form, style, dynamics, timbre, harmony in a performance situation</li> </ul>

### Demonstrates knowledge of music concepts

<i>Grade 7</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Plays accents and dynamics correctly</li> <li>▪ Knows musical notation and terminology (i.e. note values, rests, dynamics, tempo markings, meter, key signature)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Plays accents and dynamics correctly</li> <li>▪ Knows musical notation and terminology (i.e. note values, rests, dynamics, tempo markings, meter, key signature)</li> </ul>

### Demonstrates knowledge of the music to be performed

<i>Grade 7</i>	<i>Grade 8</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consistently and accurately plays assigned part</li> <li>▪ Reproduces authentic style of music repertoire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consistently and accurately plays assigned part</li> <li>▪ Reproduces authentic style of music repertoire</li> </ul>

## Chorus Benchmarks and Indicators of Proficiency

### Shows initiative when singing in a group

Grade 7	Grade 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Participates actively in chorus activities</li><li>Contributes positively to the group</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Participates actively in chorus activities</li><li>Contributes positively to the group</li></ul>

### Displays knowledge of choral music

Grade 7	Grade 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Consistently and accurately sings part</li><li>Consistently and accurately memorizes part</li><li>Knows musical notation and terminology (i.e. note values, rests, dynamics, tempo markings, meter, key signature)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Consistently and accurately sings part</li><li>Consistently and accurately memorizes part</li><li>Knows musical notation and terminology (i.e. note values, rests, dynamics, tempo markings, meter, key signature)</li></ul>

### Accurately sings vocal part

Grade 7	Grade 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sings with correct tone, diction, phrasing, articulation</li><li>Reproduces authentic style of music repertoire</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Sings with correct tone, diction, phrasing, articulation</li><li>Reproduces authentic style of music repertoire</li></ul>