

# Strong School Academic Benchmarks and Indicators of Proficiency

*The indicators represent end-of-year expectations.*

## Language Arts Benchmarks and Indicators of Proficiency

### Comprehends fiction and non-fiction text

Grade 7	Grade 8
<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

Grade 7	Grade 8
<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 purpose</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 purpose</li><li>Analyzes the structure/organizational pattern of text</li></ul>

### Develops and supports a critical stance

Grade 7	Grade 8
<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 the author's or character's customs or 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 the author's or character's customs or beliefs included in the text</li></ul>

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

Grade 7	Grade 8
<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

Grade 7	Grade 8
<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

Grade 7	Grade 8
<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>

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

Grade 7	Grade 8
<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></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

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

## Algebra Benchmarks and Indicators of Proficiency

### Demonstrates knowledge of algebraic concepts/procedures

- Uses properties of exponents
- Demonstrates knowledge of factoring
- Simplifies algebraic fractions and expressions

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

- Uses algebraic procedures appropriately
- Demonstrates understanding of linear relationships
- Identifies relevant information to solve a problem

### Communicates effectively using precise mathematical terminology

- Communicates with algebra-specific vocabulary
- Uses algebraic reasoning

## Science Benchmarks and Indicators of Proficiency

### Uses systematic observations to define a problem

Grade 7	Grade 8
<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

Grade 7	Grade 8
<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

Grade 7	Grade 8
<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

Grade 7	Grade 8
<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 Indicators of Proficiency

Grade 7	Grade 8
<b>Demonstrates an understanding of the effect of the environment on the development of ancient cultures</b>	<b>Demonstrates an understanding of US history from the Civil War to the present.</b>
<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 connection between a set of historical events and what occurred as a result of the events</li> <li>▪ Organizes and sequences historical events</li> <li>▪ Analyzes the impact of conflict and compromise on US history</li> <li>▪ Analyzes the impact of change on American goals and ideals</li> </ul>
Grade 7	Grade 8
<b>Demonstrates an understanding of diverse ancient cultures and their contributions</b>	<b>Demonstrates an understanding of how the American culture developed</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identifies, compares and contrasts the cultural contributions of various ancient and medieval civilizations</li> <li>▪ Analyzes and evaluates the role of cultural conflicts in creating technological and social advances</li> <li>▪ Analyzes each civilization’s impact on contemporary culture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Analyzes the relationships between geographic phenomena and the development of American culture</li> <li>▪ Identifies, compares and contrasts the contributions of the diverse cultures that make up the American society</li> <li>▪ Analyzes the impact of diverse ethnic groups on the development of American culture</li> </ul>
Grade 7	Grade 8
<b>Demonstrates an understanding of the development of diverse social, political and economic systems in the ancient world and their effects over time</b>	<b>Demonstrates an understanding of the development and influences of the American political and economic systems</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Explains the nature of the social, political and economic systems of ancient and medieval cultures</li> <li>▪ Evaluates the advantages and disadvantages of each system</li> <li>▪ Analyzes the impact of each system on the world today</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Explains the historical foundations of the American political and economic systems</li> <li>▪ Analyzes and evaluates the effect of geography and environment on social, political, and economic systems in the United States</li> <li>▪ Demonstrates an understanding of the rights, roles and responsibilities of citizenship</li> <li>▪ Analyzes the impact of the American political and economic systems on today’s world</li> </ul>
Grade 7	Grade 8
<b>Demonstrates grade-appropriate social studies inquiry skills</b>	<b>Demonstrates grade-appropriate social studies inquiry skills</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reads, comprehends, and analyzes current and historical primary source documents</li> <li>▪ Listens with respect for and understanding of others’ points of view</li> <li>▪ Examines multiple perspectives, takes a position on an issue and develops a strong argument to support the position</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reads, comprehends, and analyzes current and historical primary source documents</li> <li>▪ Listens with respect for and understanding of others’ points of view</li> <li>▪ Examines multiple perspectives, takes a position on an issue, develops a strong argument to support the position, and knows how to refute the position of the opposition</li> </ul>

## 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 assessment

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

Grade 7	Grade 8
<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

Grade 7	Grade 8
<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><li>Understands the correlations between a healthy diet and physical activity in maintaining a healthy lifestyle</li></ul>

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

Grade 7	Grade 8
<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

Grade 7	Grade 8
<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

Grade 7	Grade 8
<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

Grade 7	Grade 8
<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

Grade 7	Grade 8
<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>