

English Language Arts

The Word of God—written and spoken—is the occasion, purpose, and final end of all language arts. Language is a gift from God to people. First, we learn to hear, understand, and speak the spoken word. Then, we learn to read, understand, and write the written word. Finally, we learn to judge, compose, and deliver both spoken and written word. In learning language for the sake of God’s Word, we also learn language in fulfilling our humanity and the divine command to love our neighbors in our various vocations.

The purpose of learning and teaching Language Arts is to give each generation the use of God’s Word, first for all things pertaining to God and then to learn how we are to deal with our neighbor and all of God’s creation. The gift of language serves the neighbor in all three estates: the home, the church, and the civil community.

These standards are not divided by grade levels; the Lutheran Academic Anchor Standards will serve as the Portrait of a Graduate of any Lutheran School.

General Content Standard	National Anchor Standard	Lutheran Academic Anchor Standard	Scripture Connections
ELA1	CCSS.ELA Language	Students will utilize their knowledge of grammar, syntax, and logic in order to read, hear, and understand God’s Word and literature.	“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)
ELA2	CCSS.ELA Language	Students will recognize the importance of a working knowledge of a second language to deepen their reading of God’s Word, to communicate with more neighbors, and to have access to original sources from another culture.	1 Corinthians 14:6–19
ELA3	CCSS.ELA Language	Students will evaluate hymns and other Christian literature to demonstrate understanding of how such texts form the Christian community and can be used to confess truth to one another and to the rest of the world.	Canticles in Luke “Every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:11)

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			“Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness: He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.” (1 Timothy 3:16)
ELA4	CCSS.ELA Language	Students will recognize Christian images and themes in literature and analyze how these symbols are used to articulate Christian doctrine and virtue.	
ELA5	CCSS.ELA Reading: Foundational Skills	Students will express an understanding of literature and Scripture in terms of craft and content to consider how such forms of art convey truth and excellence.	“Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.” (Philippians 4:8–9)
ELA6	CCSS.ELA Reading: Literature	Students will identify creative expressions in literature as a reflection of God’s creativity, under whom we become cocreators and subcreators.	Cf. examples of creative expression in Judges 9:7–15; 2 Samuel 12:1–6; 2 Samuel 14
ELA7	CCSS.ELA Reading: Literature	Students will use literature to interpret the world in which we live and discern God’s redemption of it.	Acts 14:8–18; 17:22–31
ELA8	CCSS.ELA Reading: Literature	Students will use God’s Word to analyze and appreciate what literature says about truth.	Ecclesiastes 3:9–13

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ELA9	CCSS.ELA Reading: Literature	Students will develop and articulate a Christian worldview through an intentional selection of beautiful, provocative, and challenging texts.	
ELA10	CCSS.ELA Reading: Literature	Students will demonstrate an increasing understanding of human nature and demonstrate their developing empathy and compassion by considering the narratives, characters, and truths articulated in works of literature.	Cf. 2 Samuel 12
ELA11	CCSS.ELA Reading: Informational Texts	Students will describe how literature from all times and places can inform our understanding of natural law and God’s will.	Romans 1:19–20; 2:14–16
ELA12	CCSS.ELA Reading: Informational Texts	Students will explore through literature and demonstrate a working knowledge of topics that are difficult to consider from a purely scientific or historical standpoint (e.g., dystopian, science fiction).	Genesis 19; Lamentations; Judges 19–21
ELA13	CCSS.ELA Reading: Informational Texts	Students will evaluate how literature can contribute to an understanding and imitation of virtue.	
ELA14	CCSS.ELA Writing	Students will compose a variety of poetry and prose to imitate and create works of art to communicate truth and beauty found in creation and God’s work of redemption.	Psalms
ELA15	CCSS.ELA Speaking and Listening	Students will apply skills of logic, rhetoric, and organization in speaking and writing wisely, eloquently, and in line with God’s Word.	Proverbs; “O LORD, I call upon you; hasten to me! Give ear to my voice when I call to you! Let my prayer be counted as incense before you, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice! Set a guard, O LORD, over my mouth; keep watch over the door of my lips!” (Psalm 141:1–3)

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ELA16	CCSS.ELA Speaking and Listening	Students will memorize and recite excerpts of Scripture and literature to internalize content and expression that is true, lovely, and worthy of praise.	<p>“I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.” (Psalm 119:11)</p> <p>“But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.” (Luke 2:19)</p> <p>“And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.” (Deuteronomy 6:6–7)</p>
ELA17	CCSS.ELA Speaking and Listening	Students will implement the principles of grammar and syntax in order to communicate well in praising God and confessing His Word to their neighbor.	<p>“If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air.” (1 Corinthians 14:7–9)</p>

CCSS=Common Core State Standards