

ELA: Your Child's Learning Journey

Grades 6 • 7 • 8 | Family Curriculum Night

Reading • Writing • Language • Communication • Critical Thinking

Our goal: confident, thoughtful, capable readers, writers, and communicators.

What We Want Families to Know

READ

Students read increasingly complex literary and informational texts and support their thinking with evidence.

WRITE

Students develop organized, evidence-based writing for different purposes, audiences, and tasks.

THINK + COMMUNICATE

Students analyze ideas, discuss texts, listen actively, and explain their thinking clearly.

Common ELA Language

Words families may hear in class, conferences, and assessments

Claim – the point or position a writer is making.

Evidence – details from a text that support an idea.

Inference – a conclusion supported by clues and evidence.

Theme – the message or lesson developed through a literary text.

Central idea – the main idea developed in an informational text.

Rhetoric – how a speaker or writer uses language to influence an audience.

Context clues & morphology – strategies used to determine word meaning.

Learning & Behavior Expectations

Come prepared: materials, charged device, and readiness to learn.

Read actively: annotate, ask questions, make connections, and return to the text.

Think deeply: explain the “why,” not just the answer.

Write regularly: draft, revise, edit, and use feedback.

Participate respectfully: listen, collaborate, and allow others to think and speak.

Take ownership: ask for help, use resources, and monitor progress.

How We Measure Learning

DAILY / WEEKLY

- Exit tickets
- Quick checks
- Vocabulary & morphology
- Discussions
- Annotations
- Short responses

UNIT ASSESSMENTS

- Reading analysis
- Writing tasks
- Quizzes/tests
- Performance tasks
- Projects & presentations
- Revision opportunities

STATE ASSESSMENTS

FAST ELA Reading and B.E.S.T. Writing are part of the larger assessment picture. Instruction prepares students to read, reason, write, and communicate – not simply to test.

Florida B.E.S.T. ELA: Grades 6–8

What students should know and be able to do by the end of each grade

Reading: analyze literary elements, theme, perspective, structure, language, argument, and informational ideas.

Communication: write for different purposes, participate in discussions, present ideas, and use appropriate conventions.

Vocabulary: determine and use word meanings, including academic vocabulary and word parts.

Across middle school, students move from explaining ideas toward deeper analysis, evidence-based reasoning, and increasingly complex texts.

6th Grade • Building the Foundation

Reading: analyze character interactions, theme development, point of view, structure, and text evidence.

Writing: develop clear responses and organized writing that explains ideas and supports them with evidence.

Language: strengthen vocabulary, morphology, conventions, and precise word choice.

Communication: collaborate, listen actively, discuss ideas, and present information clearly.

Family focus: “What evidence in the text makes you think that?”

7th Grade • Deepening Analysis

Reading: analyze setting, character, theme, narrator, structure, and language.

Students compare perspectives and examine how authors develop ideas, arguments, and themes.

Writing: move beyond summary toward analysis, evidence-based responses, and purposeful writing.

Communication: evaluate ideas, use appropriate rhetoric, and participate in collaborative discussions.

Family focus: “What is the author showing us, and how does the text prove it?”

8th Grade • Preparing for High School

Reading: analyze complex texts, themes, perspectives, structure, rhetoric, and development of ideas.

Students evaluate evidence and reasoning and make connections across texts.

Writing: produce increasingly sophisticated argumentative, explanatory, and narrative writing.

Communication: present and defend ideas using evidence, appropriate language, and audience awareness.

Family focus: “How does the author develop the message?”

Year-at-a-Glance • What Students Can Expect

A family-friendly snapshot; specific texts and pacing may vary by course and teacher

QUARTER 1

- Reading routines
- Literary analysis
- Vocabulary & morphology
- Narrative / analytical writing
- Grammar & conventions

QUARTER 2

- Informational texts
- Author's purpose & structure
- Evidence-based responses
- Research / explanatory writing
- Speaking & listening

QUARTERS 3–4

- Argument & rhetoric
- Comparing texts & perspectives
- Theme / central idea analysis
- Extended writing & revision
- Assessment preparation

Simple Ways Families Can Help at Home

Read with or alongside your child – even 15–20 minutes makes a difference.

Ask questions that require thinking: “What makes you say that?” “What evidence supports it?”

Have your child explain unfamiliar words using context, word parts, or a dictionary.

Encourage complete answers instead of one-word responses.

Celebrate revision: strong writers improve their work after feedback.

Talk about books, articles, podcasts, shows, and real-world issues – conversation builds language and background knowledge.

ELA Family Take-Home: The 5 Questions

1. WHAT?

What is the text mostly about?

2. WHY?

Why did the author write it?

3. HOW?

How does the author develop the idea or theme?

4. EVIDENCE?

What part of the text supports your thinking?

5. SO WHAT?

Why does the idea matter?

FAMILY TIP

Ask for the evidence – then celebrate the thinking!

Our ELA Department

READ deeply
THINK critically
WRITE clearly
SPEAK confidently

Every reader has a voice. Every writer has a story.

Florida ELA Resources for Families

Florida Department of Education • Parent Guides for English Language Arts (Grades 6–8)

Florida Department of Education • Florida's B.E.S.T. Standards: English Language Arts

Florida Department of Education • FAST & B.E.S.T. Assessment Resources

School/district curriculum resources and teacher communication remain the best sources for your child's specific texts, assignments, and pacing.