Madison Public Schools
Grade 3 Marking Period English Language Arts Benchmarks

Reading-Literature/Informational	MP #1	MP #2	MP #3
Asks and answers questions by referring to the text	● Asks and answers questions (who, what, where, why and how) by referring to the text as the basis for the answers	● Asks and answers questions (who, what, where, why and how) by referring to the text as the basis for the answers	● Asks and answers questions (who, what, where, why and how) by referring to the text explicitly as the basis for the answers
Determines central message, lesson, or moral using supporting details	● Demonstrates an understanding that a central message, lesson or moral needs to be supported with details from the text	● Determines central message, lesson, or moral in stories using supporting details	● Recounts stories from diverse cultures ● Determines central message, lesson, or moral in stories using supporting details
Describes character traits, motivations, or feelings	● Demonstrates an understanding of the difference between a character trait and a feeling ● Begins to identify what motivates characters	● Describes character traits, motivations or feelings ● Identifies what motivates characters	● Describes character traits, motivations or feelings ● Explains how character actions contribute to a sequence of events
Compares and contrasts themes, settings, plot, and information across texts	● Demonstrates an understanding of the concept of a theme	● Determines themes of a story	● Compares and contrasts themes, settings and plots of stories written by the same author about the same or similar characters
Uses text features and search tools to locate information	● Recognizes basic text features and search tools for locating information	● Uses text features and search tools to locate information relevant to a given topic	● Uses text features and search tools to locate information relevant to a given topic

Foundational Skills	MP #1	MP #2	MP #3
Applies grade level phonics and word analysis skills	● Knows and applies phonics and word-analysis skills to grade-level texts	● Knows and applies phonics and word-analysis skills to grade-level texts	● Knows and applies phonics and word-analysis skills to grade-level texts
Reads with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension	● Reads on-level text orally with accuracy, appropriate rate and expression ● Uses context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary	● Reads on-level text orally with accuracy, appropriate rate and expression ● Uses context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary	● Reads on-level text orally with accuracy, appropriate rate and expression ● Uses context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary
Writing In opinion, informative/explanatory or narrative pieces:	**MP #1**	**MP #2**	**MP #3**
Follows the structure of the genre	Narrative: ● Establishes a situation and introduces characters ● Organizes an event sequence ● Provides a sense of closure Opinion: ● States an opinion about a topic and provides reasons that support the opinion ● Provides a concluding statement	Narrative: ● Establishes a situation and introduces characters ● Organizes an event sequence ● Provides a sense of closure ● Uses words and phrases to signal event order ● Uses dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts and feelings to develop experiences and events or shows the response of characters to situations Informative/Explanatory: ● Introduces a topic and groups related information together ● Includes illustrations to support comprehension	Opinion: ● States an opinion about a topic and provides reasons that support the opinion ● Provides a concluding statement ● Uses linking words and phrases to connect opinion and reasons Informative/Explanatory: ● Introduces a topic and groups related information together ● Includes illustrations to support comprehension ● Develops the topic with facts, definitions and details ● Uses linking words and phrases to connect ideas within categories of information

November 2016

		● Develops the topic with facts, definitions and details	● Provides a concluding statement or section
Strengthens writing by planning, revising, and editing	● With guidance and support from others, develops and strengthens writing, as needed, by planning, revising, and editing.	● With guidance and support from others, develops and strengthens writing, as needed, by planning, revising and editing ● With guidance and support from adults, uses technology to produce and publish writing.	● With guidance and support from peers and adults, develops and strengthens writing, as needed, by planning, revising and editing ● With guidance and support from adults, uses technology to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others
Uses research to build knowledge	● Recalls and gathers information from experiences ●	● Conducts short research projects that build knowledge about a topic ● Recalls information from experiences or gathers information from print and digital sources ● Takes brief notes on sources and sorts evidence	● Conducts short research projects that build knowledge about a topic ● Recalls information from experiences or gathers information from print and digital sources ● Takes brief notes on sources and sorts evidence into provided categories
Language	**MP #1**	**MP #2**	**MP #3**
Demonstrates command of conventions of grammar and usage	● Demonstrates command of conventions of grammar and usage taught this marking period when writing or speaking	● Demonstrates command of conventions of grammar and usage taught in the first and second marking period when writing or speaking	● Demonstrates command of conventions of grammar and usage taught this year when writing or speaking
Demonstrates command of capitalization and punctuation	● Capitalizes appropriate words ● Uses quotation marks in dialogue	● Capitalizes appropriate words ● Uses commas and quotation marks in dialogue ● Forms and uses possessives	● Capitalizes appropriate words ● Forms and uses possessives
Demonstrates command of spelling	● Uses spelling patterns and generalizations in writing words	● Uses spelling patterns and generalizations in writing words	● Uses spelling patterns and generalizations in writing words

November 2016

	● Uses conventional spelling for high-frequency and other studied words	● Uses conventional spelling for high-frequency and other studied words	● Uses conventional spelling for high-frequency and other studied words
Determines the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases	● Uses context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase	● Uses context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase	● Uses context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
Demonstrates the understanding of word relationships and nuances in word meaning (Distinguishes literal and nonliteral meanings of words, distinguishes shades of meaning)	● Recognizes literal and nonliteral meanings of words and phrases in context (e.g. take steps).	● Distinguishes the literal and nonliteral meanings of words and phrases in context (e.g. take steps).	● Distinguishes the literal and nonliteral meanings of words and phrases in context (e.g. take steps). ● Identifies real-life connections between words and their use (e.g. describe people that are friendly or helpful).
Speaking and Listening	**MP #1**	**MP #2**	**MP #3**
Clearly expresses ideas (one-on-one, in groups, with teachers)	● Expresses ideas clearly	● Expresses ideas clearly	● Expresses ideas clearly and builds on the ideas of others
Participates in collaborative discussions about topics/texts	● Prepares for discussions ● Follows agreed-upon discussion rules ● Asks questions to check understanding ● Stays on topic ●	● Prepares for discussions ● Follows agreed-upon discussion rules ● Asks questions to check understanding ● Stays on topic ● Links comments to remarks of others ● Explains own ideas based on discussions	● Prepares for discussions ● Follows agreed-upon discussion rules ● Asks questions to check understanding ● Stays on topic ● Links comments to remarks of others ● Explains own ideas based on discussions ● Determines the main ideas and supporting details of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively and orally.

Reports on a topic, tells a story, or recounts an experience with facts and details	● Reports on a topic or text, tells a story or recounts an experience with appropriate facts	● Reports on a topic or text, tells a story or recounts an experience with appropriate facts ● Speaks clearly at an understandable pace	● Reports on a topic or text, tells a story recounts an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas ● Speaks clearly at an understandable pace