

# Language Arts Curriculum

(revised 2018-2019 school year)

## I. Introduction

A. Foundational statements key to all curriculum strands include the school's:

1. philosophy of education, as articulated in the CSI publication *The Beginning of Wisdom*;
2. statement of purpose;
3. principles of instruction;
4. mission statement.

B. The role of teaching language arts in a Christian school is to equip students to communicate effectively, using both verbal and writing skills to honor God and serve others.

C. The language arts curriculum is addressed individually for the sake of definition. All curricular areas must be taught in an integrated manner when and wherever possible.

## II. Biblical Truths Related to Language Arts

A. Each person is created in the image of God with the ability to communicate.

B. Language is a gift from God to be enjoyed, valued, and shared.

C. The ability to communicate enables us to learn more about God and His creation, and us as His imagebearers.

D. As stewards of the gift of communication, we must learn to use those skills responsibly, with discernment and discrimination, as God's agents of reconciliation.

## III. Philosophy

A person's ability to communicate was perfect, harmonious and good. (Gen. 1:31). However, with the fall into sin, one's attempts to understand and be understood were also affected. Language, the chief means of communication, was no longer perfect and used solely to serve fellow persons and to bring honor to God. (Gen. 3:8).

Through the saving, restoring power of God's Son, a person is again able to work at developing and using language to communicate effectively. To improve this effectiveness, language arts must become part of the curriculum so that children may be helped to appreciate the beauty of language, care for the gifts of communication, and use their communicative talents to the best of their ability as they develop into active, responsible participants in God's kingdom on earth.

Language arts includes listening and speaking, reading and writing, viewing and expressing. Through listening, reading, and viewing, we receive information in a variety of ways in order to understand ourselves, others and God's world around us. Through speaking, writing, and expressing, we demonstrate God-honoring communication with others.

## **IV. Language Arts Standards for TK-8 Students**

**Sioux Center Christian School aligns to the Iowa Core language arts standards. These standards inform our content and student expectations in each grade level and are located in our scope and sequence. As a school, SCCS adopts the following overarching anchor standards for language arts. These standards guide our instruction in all applicable grade levels.**

1. **Reading:** Students will focus on the following key reading concepts in literature, informational texts, and content areas:

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
- Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity
- Foundational Skills
  - (K-1): Print Concepts and Phonological Awareness
  - (K-5): Phonics and Word Recognition and Fluency

2. **Writing:** Students will focus on the following key writing concepts:

- Text Types and Purposes
- Production and Distribution of Writing
- Research to Build and Present Knowledge
- Range of Writing

3. **Language:**

Students will focus on the following key language concepts in grades K-2:

- Comprehension and Collaboration
- Knowledge of Language

Students will focus on the following key language concepts in grades 3-8:

- Conventions of Standard English
- Knowledge of Language
- Vocabulary Acquisition and Use

4. **Speaking and Listening:** Students will focus on the following key speaking and listening concepts:

- Comprehension and Collaboration
- Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas