

Diocese of Jefferson City Curriculum Guide

Content Area: Language Arts
 Grade Range: Eighth Grade
 Section/Heading: 8A.1

Strand: Reading/Literature

Diocesan Standard Terra Nova Objective	Benchmark Statement
Reading/Literature *Terra Nova Assessed (03, 05, 35, 36, 37)	Use effective strategies to achieve the student’s purpose in reading.

Performance Indicators		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase vocabulary through the study of multiple meanings, context clues and word structure. 2. Use knowledge of sentence or word structure, word origin, visual imagery, and context clues to understand unfamiliar words and clarify passages of text. 3. Use knowledge of the visual features of texts, such as headings and boldface print, and structures of texts, such as chronology and sequence and cause-and-effect, as aids to comprehension. 4. Establish purposeful reading and writing habits by using texts to find information, gain understanding of diverse viewpoints, make decisions, and enjoy the experience of reading. 5. Select, summarize, and paraphrase, orally and in writing, passages of texts chosen for specific purposes. 6. Identify and use appropriate test taking skills (multiple choice, true/false, short answer, and essay). 		
Suggested Activities	Assessment	Resources

Diocese of Jefferson City Curriculum Guide

Content Area: Language Arts
 Grade Range: Eighth Grade
 Section/Heading: 8A.2

Strand: Reading/Literature

Diocesan Standard Terra Nova Objective	Benchmark Statement
Reading/Literature *Terra Nova Assessed (03, 04)	Read, interpret and critically analyze literature.

Performance Indicators		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify the defining features and structure of literary texts, including conflict, characterization, plot structure (exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution), and point of view (1st person, 3rd person, omniscient). 2. Analyze the effect of characters, plot, setting, figurative language, mood, theme, style, purpose, and point of view on the overall impact of literature. 3. Draw on a broad base of knowledge about the genres of literature, including the structure and conventions of fables, epics, myths, tall tales, plays, poems, short stories, and novels, when interpreting the meaning of a literary work. 4. Develop criteria to evaluate literary merit and explain critical opinions about text, either informally in conversation or formally in a well-organized speech or essay. 		
Suggested Activities	Assessment	Resources

Diocese of Jefferson City Curriculum Guide

Content Area: Language Arts
 Grade Range: Eighth Grade
 Section/Heading: 8A.3

Strand: Reading Literature

Diocesan Standard Terra Nova Objective	Benchmark Statement
Reading/Literature *Terra Nova Assessed (02, 03, 04)	Read and discuss literary and non-literary texts in order to understand human experiences.

Performance Indicators		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide interpretive responses, orally and in writing, to literary and nonliterary texts representing the diversity of American cultural heritage and cultures of the world. 2. Identify common historical, social, and cultural themes and issues in literary works and selected passages. 3. Draw on a broad base of knowledge about the themes, ideas and insights found in classical literature while reading, interpreting, and reflecting on contemporary texts. 4. Evaluate the themes and main ideas of a work considering its audience and purpose. 		
Suggested Activities	Assessment	Resources

Diocese of Jefferson City Curriculum Guide

Content Area: Language Arts
 Grade Range: Eighth Grade
 Section/Heading: 8A.4

Strand: Reading Literature

Diocesan Standard Terra Nova Objective	Benchmark Statement
Reading/Literature *Terra Nova Assessed (03, 04, 05)	Read to acquire information.

Performance Indicators		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Interpret and use technical resources such as charts, graphs, diagrams, tables, travel schedules, timelines and manuals. 2. Compare, contrast, and evaluate the relative accuracy and usefulness of information from different sources. 3. Identify and explain main ideas, details, and organization found in a variety of informational passages. 4. Distinguish between facts found in documents, narratives, charts, maps, tables and other sources and the generalizations and interpretations that are drawn from them. 		
Suggested Activities	Assessment	Resources

Diocese of Jefferson City Curriculum Guide

Content Area: Language Arts
 Grade Range: Eighth Grade
 Section/Heading: 8B.1

Strand: Writing

Diocesan Standard Terra Nova Objective	Benchmark Statement
Writing *Terra Nova Assessed (02, 05)	Create or produce writing to communicate with different audiences for a variety of purposes.

Performance Indicators		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Write a coherent and complete expository piece, with sufficient detail to fulfill its purpose, sufficient evidence to support its assertions, language appropriate for its intended audience, and organization achieved through clear coordination and subordination of ideas. 2. Write a persuasive piece that includes a clear position, a discernable tone, and a coherent argument with reliable evidence. 3. Write a narrative based on experience that uses descriptive language and detail effectively, presents a sequence of events, and reveals a theme. 4. Write creative fiction that includes major and minor characters, a coherent plot, effective imagery, descriptive language, and concrete detail. 5. Write in a variety of situations and adapt strategies, such as revision, technology, and the use of reference materials, to the situation. 6. Use a variety of writing technologies including pencil/paper as well as computers. 7. Write for a variety of readers, including peers, teachers and other adults, adapting content, style and structure to audience and situation. 		
Suggested Activities	Assessment	Resources

Diocese of Jefferson City Curriculum Guide

Content Area: Language Arts
 Grade Range: Eighth Grade
 Section/Heading: 8B.2

Strand: Writing

Diocesan Standard Terra Nova Objective	Benchmark Statement
Writing *Terra Nova Assessed (07, 08, 09)	Plan, revise, edit and publish clear, effective writing.

Performance Indicators		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use pre-writing strategies to organize information. 2. Produce multiple drafts, including finished pieces that demonstrate the capacity to generate, focus, and organize ideas and to revise the language, organization, content, and tone of successive drafts in order to fulfill a specific purpose for communicating with a specific audience. 3. Identify questions and strategies for improving drafts in writing conferences with a teacher. 4. Given a writing assignment to be completed in a limited amount of time, produce a well developed, well organized and effective response in correct English and an appropriate voice. 		
Suggested Activities	Assessment	Resources

Diocese of Jefferson City Curriculum Guide

Content Area: Language Arts
 Grade Range: Eighth Grade
 Section/Heading: 8B.3

Strand: Writing

Diocesan Standard Terra Nova Objective	Benchmark Statement
Writing *Terra Nova Assessed (07, 09, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43)	Understand the function of various forms, structures and punctuation marks of standard American English and use them appropriately in communication.

Performance Indicators		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand the function of words, phrases, and clauses in a sentence and use them effectively, including coordinate and subordinate conjunctions and relative pronouns. 2. Use correct tenses to indicate the relative order of events. 3. Understand and employ principles of agreement, including subject-verb, pronoun-noun. 4. Punctuate compound, complex, compound-complex sentences correctly. 5. Employ the conventions of capitalization and punctuation. 6. Spell frequently used words correctly and use effective strategies for spelling unfamiliar words correctly. 		
Suggested Activities	Assessment	Resources

Diocese of Jefferson City Curriculum Guide

Content Area: Language Arts
 Grade Range: Eighth Grade
 Section/Heading: 8C.1

Strand: Oral Language

Diocesan Standard Terra Nova Objective	Benchmark Statement
Oral Language	Orally communicate information, opinions, and ideas effectively to different audiences for a variety of purposes.

Performance Indicators		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share brief impromptu remarks about topics of interest to oneself and others. 2. Speaking from notes or an outline, relate an experience in descriptive detail, with a sense of timing and decorum appropriate to the occasion. 3. Perform expressive oral readings of prose, scripture, poetry and drama. 4. Prepare and conduct interviews. 5. Differentiate between formal and informal contexts and employ appropriate eye contact and style of speaking, adjusting language, rate, and volume according to audience and purpose. 6. Evaluate the reliability of information in a communication using criteria based on prior knowledge of the speaker, the topic and the context and on the analysis of evidence. 7. Present a coherent, comprehensive report on differing viewpoints on an issue, evaluating the content of the material presented and organizing the presentation in a manner appropriate to the audience. 8. Observe appropriate etiquette when expressing thanks and receiving praise. 9. Prepare and perform a liturgical reading. 		
Suggested Activities	Assessment	Resources

Diocese of Jefferson City Curriculum Guide

Content Area: Language Arts
 Grade Range: Eighth Grade
 Section/Heading: 8C.2

Strand: Oral Language

Diocesan Standard Terra Nova Objective	Benchmark Statement
Oral Language	Listen to and comprehend oral communication.

Performance Indicators		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply the rules of good listening as part of an audience. 2. Summarize and explain the information conveyed in an oral communication, accounting for the key ideas, structure, and relationship of parts to a whole. 3. Distinguish among purposes for listening, such as gaining information or being entertained, and take notes as appropriate. 4. Recall significant details and sequence accurately. 5. Evaluate the reliability of information in a communication, using criteria based on prior knowledge of the speaker, the topic and the context, and on analysis of evidence and propaganda devices. 		
Suggested Activities	Assessment	Resources

Diocese of Jefferson City Curriculum Guide

Content Area: Language Arts
 Grade Range: Eighth Grade
 Section/Heading: 8C.3

Strand: Oral Language

Diocesan Standard Terra Nova Objective	Benchmark Statement
Oral Language	Participate effectively in discussion.

Performance Indicators		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participate in discussion by listening attentively, demonstrating respect for the opinions of others and responding responsibly and courteously to the remarks of others. 2. Explain and advance opinions by citing evidence and referring to sources. 3. Evaluate the stated ideas and opinions of others, seeking clarification through questions. 4. Invite ideas and opinions of others into the discussion, responding clearly and tactfully to questions and comments. 5. Accept and use helpful criticism. 6. Establish and maintain an open mind when listening to others' ideas and opinions. 7. Summarize the main points of a discussion, orally and in writing, specifying areas of agreement and disagreement and paraphrasing contributions. 8. Display and maintain facial expressions, body language, and other response cues that indicate respect for the speaker and attention to the discussion. 9. Attend to the content of discussion rather than the speaker. 10. Participate in discussion without dominating. 11. Distinguish between supported and unsupported statements. 		
Suggested Activities	Assessment	Resources

Diocese of Jefferson City Curriculum Guide

Content Area: Language Arts
 Grade Range: Eighth Grade
 Section/Heading: 8D.1

Strand: Language

Diocesan Standard Terra Nova Objective	Benchmark Statement
Language *Terra Nova Assessed (35)	Develop the student’s vocabulary of words, phrases and idioms as a means of improving communication.

Performance Indicators		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult dictionaries, thesauruses, handbooks and grammar texts when choosing words, phrases, and expressions for use in oral and written presentations. 2. Explain how writers and speakers choose words and figurative language including alliteration, similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia, personification, hyperbole, allusion and clichés to achieve specific effects. 3. Choose words purposefully and evaluate the use of words in communications designed to inform, explain, and persuade. 		
Suggested Activities	Assessment	Resources

Diocese of Jefferson City Curriculum Guide

Content Area: Language Arts
 Grade Range: Eighth Grade
 Section/Heading: 8D.2

Strand: Language

Diocesan Standard Terra Nova Objective	Benchmark Statement
Language	Recognize and interpret various uses and adaptations of language in social, cultural, regional, and professional situations and learn to be flexible and responsive in the use of English.

Performance Indicators		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe how American English is used in various public and private contexts, like school and home. 2. Make appropriate choices when speaking and writing, such as formal or informal language, considering the purposes and context of the communication. 3. Evaluate how audience and context affect the selection and use of words and phrases, including technical terms, slang and jargon. 		
Suggested Activities	Assessment	Resources

Diocese of Jefferson City Curriculum Guide

Content Area: Language Arts
 Grade Range: Eighth Grade
 Section/Heading: 8E.1

Strand: Media and Technology

Diocesan Standard Terra Nova Objective	Benchmark Statement
Media and Technology	Use computers to acquire, organize, analyze and communicate information.

Performance Indicators		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate efficient word-processing skills. 2. Construct and use simple databases. 3. Use manuals and on-screen help in connection with computer applications, pages, and groups. 4. Perform basic computer operations in various programs. 5. Collect information from various on-line sources, such as web pages, news groups, and listservs. 		
Suggested Activities	Assessment	Resources

Diocese of Jefferson City Curriculum Guide

Content Area: Language Arts
 Grade Range: Eighth Grade
 Section/Heading: 8E.2

Strand: Media and Technology

Diocesan Standard Terra Nova Objective	Benchmark Statement
Media and Technology	Show respect for people and materials in the media center.

Performance Indicators		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Speak quietly in the media center and follow proper procedures. 2. Treat materials with care and follow proper procedures while using materials. 3. Demonstrate correct behavior for various activities in the media center. 4. Return materials on time and in the proper place. 		
Suggested Activities	Assessment	Resources

Diocese of Jefferson City Curriculum Guide

Content Area: Language Arts
 Grade Range: Eighth Grade
 Section/Heading: 8E.3

Strand: Media and Technology

Diocesan Standard Terra Nova Objective	Benchmark Statement
Media and Technology	Make informed judgments about media and products.

Performance Indicators		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recognize common structural features found in print and broadcast advertising. 2. Identify and explain the use of stereotypes and biases evident in various media. 3. Compare the effect of particular symbols and images seen in various media. 4. Develop criteria for selecting or avoiding specific broadcast programs and periodicals. 		
Suggested Activities	Assessment	Resources

Diocese of Jefferson City Curriculum Guide

Content Area: Language Arts
 Grade Range: Eighth Grade
 Section/Heading: 8E.4

Strand: Media and Technology

Diocesan Standard Terra Nova Objective	Benchmark Statement
Media and Technology	Create media products appropriate to audience and purpose.

Performance Indicators		
1. Write informational articles that target audiences of a variety of publications. 2. Use desktop publishing to produce products such as brochures and newsletters designed for particular organization and audiences. 3. Create video and audiotapes designed for particular audiences.		
Suggested Activities	Assessment	Resources

Diocese of Jefferson City Curriculum Guide

Content Area: Language Arts
 Grade Range: Eighth Grade
 Section/Heading: 8E.5

Strand: Media and Technology

Diocesan Standard Terra Nova Objective	Benchmark Statement
Media and Technology	Demonstrate a working knowledge of media production and distribution.

Performance Indicators		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyze how messages may be affected by financial factors such as sponsorship. 2. Identify advertising strategies and techniques aimed at pre-teens and teenagers. 		
Suggested Activities	Assessment	Resources

Diocese of Jefferson City Curriculum Guide

Content Area: Language Arts
 Grade Range: Eighth Grade
 Section/Heading: 8F.1

Strand: Research and Inquiry

Diocesan Standard Terra Nova Objective	Benchmark Statement
Research and Inquiry	Conduct research and inquiry on self-selected or assigned topics, issues, or problems and use an appropriate form to communicate findings.

Performance Indicators		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formulate research questions and focus investigation on relevant and accessible sources of information. 2. Use multiple sources to identify and locate information pertinent to research including encyclopedias, almanacs, dictionaries, library catalogs, indexes to periodicals and various electronic search engines. 3. Conduct interviews, field studies, and/or experiments and use specialized resources (such as almanacs, fact books, pamphlets, and technical manuals) when appropriate to an investigation. 4. Compile, organize and evaluate information, taking notes that record and summarize what has been learned and extending the investigation to other sources. 5. Review and evaluate the usefulness of information gathered in an investigation. 6. Produce an organized written and/or oral report that presents and reflects on findings, draws sound conclusions, adheres to the conventions for preparing a manuscript and gives proper credit to sources. 		
Suggested Activities	Assessment	Resources