

Parent Guide to Grammar in OJR

6th Grade

Grammar, conventions, and language usage are foundational skills taught as part of the OJR English Language Arts (ELA) Curriculum. These skills are taught within the core curriculum and are aligned with state grade level expectations. The focus for instruction in these areas is on application in reading texts and writing narratives, informational, and persuasive pieces.

Some examples of how of students are taught foundational skills in reading and writing:

- As readers, students are taught to notice authors' use of adjectives in helping to envision setting, dialogue to reveal character traits, verb-tense agreement to indicate time, and commas give dramatic pause or set off important information.
- As writers, students are taught to use conventions to create meaning in narratives, persuasive essays, and informational texts. Writers learn that punctuation signals the reader to attend to important ideas. Conjunctions connect two clauses (e.g., 'and' connects two similar ideas, while 'but' connects opposing ideas), and semicolons to link independent clauses with similar ideas (and needed when there are already too many commas in a sentence).

In this handout you will find the expectations, or “non-negotiable,” for your child’s grade level. At home parents can support the mastery and automaticity of these skills by having your child consistently use skills taught in the previous year when publishing writing or completing homework in all subject areas. When students are drafting new pieces of work, the focus is on constructing meaning. In new writing pieces, editing and “non-negotiable” expectations can be addressed in revising and editing work closer to publication. As students learn new skills throughout this year, you can begin to add those new grade level skills to the “non-negotiable” list from previous years.

You may notice some repetition of skills in previous or subsequent grades. This expectation repeats intentionally to support student learning and application of the skills in more complex pieces of writing.

All grade level skills can be found by accessing these documents at: <http://ojrsd.schoolwires.net/Page/6317>

Finally, information on handwriting/keyboarding expectations is included to help reinforce when students should be using those skills consistently.

Grammar, Conventions, & Language Usage ~ Grade 6

	Grade 5 *Reinforce these skills at home and have students use in writing “Non-Negotiables”	Grade 6 *Reinforce and add to the “Non-Negotiables” list as skills are introduced throughout the year	Grade 7 *Students may using, but confusing these skills and do not need to be reinforced at this time
Grammar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the function of conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections in general and their function in particular sentences. Form and use the perfect verb tenses (e.g., <i>I had walked</i>; <i>I have walked</i>; <i>I will have walked</i>). Use verb tense to convey various times, sequences, states, and conditions. Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense.* Use correlative conjunctions (e.g., <i>either/or</i>, <i>neither/nor</i>). Ensure subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement.* Use verb tense to convey various times, sequences, states, and conditions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that pronouns are in the proper case (i.e., subjective, objective, and possessive). Use intensive pronouns (e.g., <i>myself</i>, <i>ourselves</i>). Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person.* Recognize and correct vague pronouns (i.e., ones with unclear or ambiguous antecedents).* Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense.* Ensure subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement.* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain the function of phrases and clauses in general and their function in specific sentences. Choose among simple, compound, complex, and compound-complex sentences to signal differing relationships among ideas. Place phrases and clauses within a sentence, recognizing and correcting misplaced and dangling modifiers.* Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in pronoun number and person.* Recognize and correct vague pronouns (i.e., ones with unclear or ambiguous antecedents).* Recognize and correct inappropriate shifts in verb tense.* Ensure subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement.*
Punctuation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce complete sentences, recognizing and correcting inappropriate fragments and run-on sentences.* Use punctuation to separate items in a series.* Use a comma to separate an introductory element from the rest of the sentence. Use a comma to set off the words <i>yes</i> and <i>no</i> (e.g., <i>Yes, thank you</i>), to set off a tag question from the rest of the sentence (e.g., <i>It’s true, isn’t it?</i>), and to indicate direct address (e.g., <i>Is that you, Steve?</i>). Use underlining, quotation marks, or italics to indicate titles of works. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce complete sentences, recognizing and correcting inappropriate fragments and run-on sentences.* Use punctuation (commas, parentheses, and dashes) to set off nonrestrictive/parenthetical elements.* Use punctuation to separate items in a series.* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce complete sentences, recognizing and correcting inappropriate fragments and run-on sentences.* Use a comma to separate coordinate adjectives (e.g., <i>It was a fascinating, enjoyable movie</i> but not <i>He wore an old[,] green shirt</i>). Use punctuation (commas, parentheses, and dashes) to set off nonrestrictive/parenthetical elements.* Use punctuation to separate items in a series.*
Spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correctly use frequently confused words (e.g., <i>to, too, two; there, their, they’re</i>).* Spell correctly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correctly use frequently confused words (e.g., <i>to, too, two; there, their, they’re</i>).* Spell correctly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Correctly use frequently confused words (e.g., <i>to, too, two; there, their, they’re</i>).* Spell correctly.
Editing/ Revising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand, combine, and reduce sentences for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style. Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely.* Choose punctuation for effect.* Choose words and phrases for effect.* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose words and phrases to convey ideas precisely* Vary sentence patterns for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style.* Maintain consistency in style and tone.* Choose punctuation for effect.* Choose words and phrases for effect.* 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose language that expresses ideas precisely and concisely, recognizing and eliminating wordiness and redundancy.* Vary sentence patterns for meaning, reader/listener interest, and style.* Maintain consistency in style and tone.* Choose punctuation for effect.* Choose words and phrases for effect.*
Production and Distribution of Writing Process & Handwriting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With guidance and support, use technology to produce and publish writing (using keyboarding skills) as well as to interact and collaborate with others. Writes fluently in manuscript and cursive Demonstrate sufficient command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of one page in a single sitting. MLA Format for research, argument, and informational 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, or rewriting. Chooses manuscript or cursive to write effectively. Demonstrate command of keyboarding skills to type a minimum of 1-3 pages in a single sitting. MLA Format for research, argument, and informational 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With some guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed. MLA Format for research, argument, and informational