

# Parent Guide to Grade 8 Standards



MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## WRITING

### What should my child learn in Grade 8?

#### Write Widely and Often

- Compose coherent writing in which the development, organization, format, and style are appropriate to the task, purpose, and audience.
- Write clear and organized arguments to support claims with logical reasons and relevant evidence. Use words, phrases, and clauses to create cohesive relationships among these claims.
- Write informative/expository texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts, and information through the selection, organization, and analysis of relevant content.
- Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique (e.g., dialogue, pacing, details of setting, and development of characters), descriptive details, and well-structured sequences of events that naturally and logically unfold.

#### Research

- Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing from several credible sources (print and digital).
- Summarize, quote, and paraphrase information to support research inquiry, using appropriate guidelines for citation.
- Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.
- Develop and strengthen writing by planning, revising, editing, or trying a new approach, focusing on purpose and audience.

#### Language and Vocabulary

- Continue to improve spelling, conventions, and mechanics, paying particular attention to this while reading model texts.
- Choose language that is appropriate for the audience and that expresses ideas precisely and concisely.



#### Infinite Campus Parent Portal

*Get real-time updates and alerts right on your phone!*

Get 24-hour access to view your child's academics, attendance, and resources to support achievement. Go to your child's school to sign up for an account and bring photo identification. Once registered, access your account online at [mpsmke.com/parentportal](https://mpsmke.com/parentportal).

For more information, contact your child's teacher, school leader, or the MPS Office of Academics at (414) 777-7806 or [mpsmke.com/academics](https://mpsmke.com/academics).

### How Can I Help My Child Learn at Home?



- 1 Provide time and space for your child to practice writing (free from distractions).
- 2 Provide opportunities for your child to write for real purposes and audiences (e.g., co-write grocery lists, celebration invitations, etc.).
- 3 Allow your child to see you engage in the act and art of writing.
- 4 Display and celebrate your child's writing.
- 5 Encourage your child to take part in a writing contest. Many different writing contests happen at all times of the year.
- 6 Read like a writer. As you read to your child and/or your child reads to you, point out aspects of the author's word choice, style, and technique that you enjoy and believe to be effective.

The MPS Ambitious Instruction Plan strengthens core instruction and builds a strong foundation across academic areas with a focus on mastery of **reading**, **writing**, and **mathematics** skills.