

# Missoula County Public Schools English Language Arts Curriculum



Forward Thinking. High Achieving.

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Missoula County Public Schools recently adopted a new English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum for our elementary students. The Missoula County Public Schools K-12 English Language Arts (ELA) Curriculum aligns to the Montana Common Core Standards. The standards, which are divided into broad strands: Reading Literature, Reading Informational Text, and Reading Foundational Skills K-5; Writing; Speaking and Listening; and Language, reflect the essential skills necessary for life, college and career readiness and responsible citizenship in the 21st century. All students need to be skillful in English Language Arts to successfully learn in school, to become productive members of society, and to achieve their full potential through life-long learning.

In May 2008, the board approved the adoption of a three-part model for elementary English Language Arts -the ReadyGen curriculum materials, the Daily 5 Instructional Framework, and the Independent Reading Level Assessment (IRLA) framework. We are implementing those resources in K-5th grade classroom

## How does MCPS define “curriculum?”

The curriculum is the standards that we teach. It is the answer to the first question of our four questions within a Professional Learning Community - “What is it that we want our students to know and be able to do?” Once the standards are clearly defined, then the materials and resources we use to address the standards are aligned. This answers the second question of a Professional Learning Community - “How will we know if they know it?”

“The curriculum must provide clear guidance regarding the content to be addressed in specific courses and at specific grade levels. “ (Marzano et al., 2014, p. 69)

## What is a guaranteed and viable curriculum?

- Guaranteed curriculum means every student is provided the opportunity to learn a core curriculum, which provides them with the probability of success in school.
- Viable curriculum means that the necessary time is available in the day, and protected, so students will be able to learn the guaranteed curriculum.

## What are curriculum materials?

We choose to utilize common curriculum materials to promote consistency across each school, ensuring that all students are learning in an equitable educational setting. The benefit of common materials enables teachers to come together in a collaborative manner, as a Professional Learning Community, to share in best instructional and assessment practices that ensures improved outcomes for all students.

## K-5 Literacy Model

ReadyGEN is an integrated and balanced approach to reading and writing instruction for K-5th-grade classrooms. The combination of authentic texts with modeling and teacher-directed activities drive learning and motivate readers.

Daily 5 is the literacy framework that provides a research-based balance between whole group instruction and meaningful small group work.

The IRLA assessment delivers specific and actionable data that tells the teacher about the student’s reading skills in that specific moment in time. The IRLA also provides the teacher with an explanation about why the student demonstrates certain skills and the sequence of skills/behaviors needed to accelerate reading growth.

# Student experience in the classroom

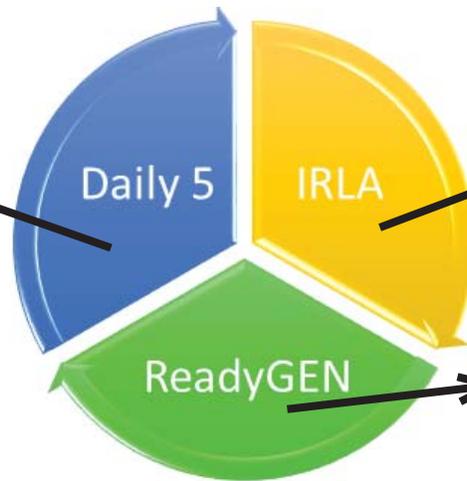
Daily 5 is a literacy framework that instills behaviors of independence, creates a classroom of highly engaged readers, writers, and learners, and provides teachers with the time and structure to meet diverse student needs. Because it holds no curricular content, it can be used to meet any school, district, state, or national standards. (TheDailyCafe.com)

At MCPS, we have paired this framework with the ReadyGEN curriculum materials. Instruction focuses on reading, writing, speaking, and listening in response to authentic texts. Students read from 12 authentic texts at every grade. In addition, students access interactive anchor texts in a technology-blended experience on Chromebooks. Texts are carefully selected to reinforce unit themes and are focused on building content knowledge.

The final component of our balanced model is the IRLA, rolling out progressively to all nine K-5 schools. The IRLA is not intended to limit what students read. Rather, the IRLA's reading taxonomy simplifies the complexity of the reading process, allowing teachers to support every learner with the right level text and reading strategies.

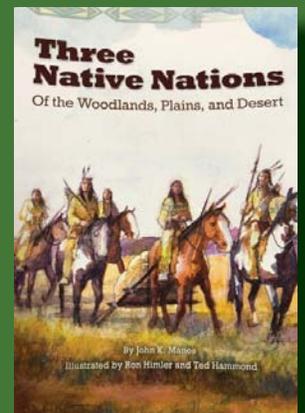
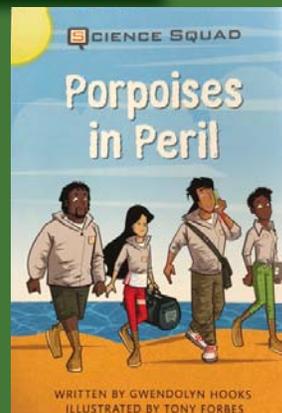
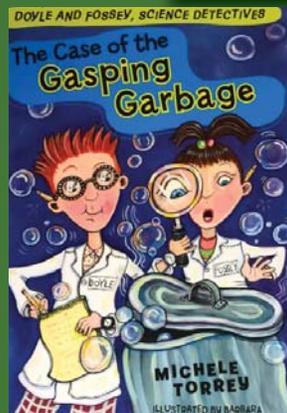
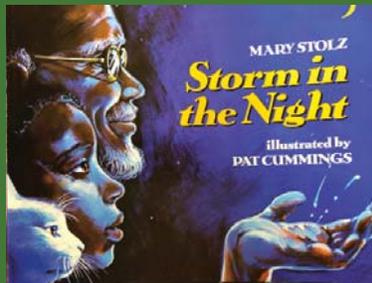
"What Is Daily 5?" Flip the Sound | TheDailyCAFE.com, Eclipse Media Solutions, [www.thedailycafe.com/content/what-daily-5](http://www.thedailycafe.com/content/what-daily-5).

- Literacy framework
- Supports balance of whole group and small group
- PD will be offered starting Summer 2018



- ARC
- Diagnostic and Formative Assessment guide

- Integrated approach to Reading and Writing
- Strong phonics component
- Leveled Libraries
- Small group literacy options
- Authentic Texts included



Students read a variety of literary and informational texts that represent a variety of cultures in grades K-5.