

North Palos District 117 Handwriting Vision and Standards

We believe direct instruction of handwriting is necessary to assist our students in writing fluently and legibly. The Common Core State Standards require students to write in all subject areas. Handwriting instruction will allow our students to focus on the ideas and content of their writing instead of the physical process of forming letters.

Kindergarten	First Grade	Second Grade
<p>Identify and print letters and numerals with assistance on grade-level appropriate lined paper.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify and create basic manuscript lines (horizontal, vertical, circle, slant). b. Form lines and letters following the organization print (left to right, top to bottom). c. Identify and print with assistance most uppercase and lowercase letters. d. Identify and print numerals 0 to 9 with assistance. e. Begin short letters at the midpoint and end them on the baseline. f. Begin tall letters at the top line and end them on the baseline <p>With assistance, produce printed letters, words, and sentences with proper proportion, size, and spacing on grade-level appropriate paper.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Control size of uppercase letters between top and bottom lines. b. Begin to print letters with proper proportions ascenders and descenders. c. With assistance, print whole words with correct spacing between letters. d. With assistance, print sentences with correct spacing between words and between sentences. 	<p>Independently print legible letters, numerals and punctuation on lined paper.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify and form uppercase and lowercase letters independently and legibly with minimal rotations and reversals. b. Use uppercase letter for <i>I</i>. c. Identify and form numerals 0-9, including two-digit numeral pairs. d. Identify and form sentence end punctuation. <p>Produce printed letters, words and sentences with proper proportion, size, and spacing on lined paper.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Control size of uppercase letters relative to lowercase letters. b. Align letter midpoints with midpoint dotted line. c. Print whole words with correct spacing letters. d. Print sentences using correct spacing between words and between sentences. e. Print two-digit numerals using correct spacing. 	<p>Form all uppercase and lowercase letters legibly in manuscript with no rotations or reversals.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consistently maintain proper proportion of ascenders, descenders, and letter parts. b. Self-assess manuscript legibility against models. c. Print sentences that begin with uppercase letters and that include end and internal punctuation. <p>Use grade-level appropriate paper to produce printed letters, words and sentences with proper proportion, size and spacing.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Print manuscript letters with proper spacing relative to double lines. b. Print words and sentences using correct spacing between letters, words and sentences. c. Print paragraphs using correct indentation and appropriate margins. <p>Understand cursive writing is different from manuscript.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Begin to understand the difference between manuscript and cursive writing by matching manuscript letters to their cursive counterparts and identifying where joinings occur.

Third Grade	Fourth Grade	Fifth Grade
<p>Produce words, sentences, and paragraphs with proper proportion, size and spacing on lined paper using manuscript writing.</p> <p>Form legible letters and numerals using cursive writing.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Identify and create four basic cursive lines (under-curve, down-curve, over-curve, slant). b. Form individual uppercase and lowercase cursive letters and numerals with acceptable legibility. c. Form joinings to connect letters, maintaining proportion of letters to joinings. d. Form cursive words using correct spacing between letters and proportional letter sizes. e. Form sentences using cursive handwriting with correct spacing between words and with punctuation. f. Form cursive paragraphs using proper indentation and margins, by the end of the year. g. Self-assess cursive legibility using model letters and words. 	<p>Maintain legibility in manuscript writing.</p> <p>Form legible letters and numerals using cursive writing.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Write words, using proper joinings, legibly in cursive. b. Legibly write sentences and paragraphs in cursive with proper spacing. 	<p>Maintain legibility in manuscript writing.</p> <p>Maintain legibility in cursive writing.</p>