

English Program: The Houghton Mifflin English series (based upon the standards for the National Council of Teachers of English and the Louisiana Grade Level Expectations in English) is used to teach the students in third through eighth grades English grammar and writing. The program builds upon grammar skills throughout the grade levels, writing techniques and how to apply the grammar in writing (usage and punctuation) as well as speaking skills. The students are taught in heterogeneously mixed homeroom classes.

Students are taught the (age-appropriate) writing process throughout the English curriculum:

Prewriting: gathering ideas, mapping ideas, listing ideas, outlining ideas

Writing: sentence construction, paragraph construction, entire writing piece construction

Revising: correcting mistakes in grammar, punctuation, sentence formation, paragraph formation, organization of sentences, paragraphs and papers

Publishing: turning in completed work, share with others when possible, use examples for all to learn about proper punctuation, grammar, organization, etc.

- **Third graders** focus on grammar and writing skills, such as the following:
 1. Sentences: types, subjects, predicates, writing good sentences, correcting run on sentences
 2. Nouns: common, proper, singular/plural, possessives, writing with nouns to elaborate and combine
 3. Verbs: tenses (present, past, future), special “be” verbs, helping verbs, irregular verbs, contractions with “not”, writing with verbs and combining sentences
 4. Adjectives: descriptive, adjectives that tell “what kind,” using “a, an & the,” comparing with adjectives using “er & “est”, writing with adjectives (elaborating and combining sentences)
 5. Adverbs: descriptive, adverbs that tell “how, when or where,” using “to, two & too,” writing with adverbs to elaborate and combine sentences
 6. Capitalization & Punctuation: proper nouns, other nouns that need to be capitalized, abbreviations, book titles, introductory words, commas in a series, quotation marks and writing good sentences by combining sentences to make a good series
 7. Pronouns: subjects, pronouns and verbs, objects, possessives, contractions, using “I & me,” and using “there, their and they’re,” writing with pronouns
 8. Writing Process
 9. Narrative Writing: personal and stories
 10. Expository & Informative Writing: writing instructions, research report
 11. Expressive & Opinion Writing: expressive and persuasive

- **Fourth graders** build on third grade skills and focus more in-depth in grammar and writing as follows:
 1. Sentences: review of what makes up a sentence, types of sentences, subjects, simple subjects, predicates, simple predicates, run-on sentences and how to correct them; writing complete sentences and writing combined sentences
 2. Nouns: common and proper, singular and plural, nouns ending in y, singular and plural possessives, writing with nouns
 3. Verbs: action verbs, main verbs & helping verbs, tenses, subject-verb agreement, spelling present and past tense verbs, past tense with helping verbs, irregular verbs,

- special “be” verb, contractions with “not,” and writing with verbs and keeping them in the same tense
4. Adjectives: after the “be” verb, using “a, an & the,” making comparisons with “er, est, more and most,” comparing with good and bad, writing with adjectives to elaborate
 5. Capitalization & Punctuation: correct sentences, names of people, pets, places & things, abbreviations, commas in a series, more uses for commas, quotation marks, quotations, titles and writing different types of sentences
 6. Pronouns: subject pronouns, object pronouns, using “I and me,” possessive pronouns, contractions with pronouns, pronouns and homophones and writing clearly with pronouns
 7. Adverbs and Prepositions: adverbs, comparing with adverbs, using “good and well,” negatives, prepositions, and writing with prepositions
 8. Writing Process
 9. Narrative and Informative Writing: personal narratives and stories; expository writing, informative writing, writing instructions, writing a research report; expressive and persuasive writing

➤ **Fifth graders** extend the grammar and writing skills by focusing on the following:

1. Sentences: four kinds of sentences, subjects, predicates, simple subjects, simple predicates, subjects in imperatives, conjunctions, run-on sentences, writing compound sentences
2. Nouns: common, proper, singular, plural, singular possessive, plural possessive, writing compound sentences, compound subjects, writing with possessive nouns, writing appositives with possessive nouns
3. Verbs: action verbs with direct objects, main verbs and helping verbs, present, past future tense verbs, subject-verb agreement, agreement with “be” and “have,” contractions with “not,” regular and irregular verbs, verb phrases, using “teach, learn, let, leave, sit, set, can and may,” writing with verbs in the same tense
4. Adjectives: articles, demonstratives, comparisons using adjectives, comparing with good and bad, proper adjectives, writing elaborate sentences with adjectives
5. Capitalization and Punctuation: correct sentences, proper nouns, proper adjectives, using commas in a series, interjections, quotations, abbreviations, titles, writing sentences with commas, combining sentences using introductory words, combining sentences with a series of words or phrases
6. Pronouns: subject pronouns, object pronouns, using “I and me,” possessive pronouns, contractions with pronouns, double subjects, using “we and us” with nouns, using homophones, writing using pronouns, writing clearly with pronouns
7. Adverbs and Prepositions: comparing adverbs, differences between adjectives and adverbs, negatives, prepositions, prepositional phrases, pronouns in prepositional phrases, differences in adverbs and prepositions, writing with prepositions to create more detail, combining sentences with prepositional phrases
8. Writing Process
9. Writing Narratives: personal narratives, stories
10. Comparison and Contrast Writing, Opinion and Persuasion writing