



# GEORGIA MILESTONES MINUTE

Designed Especially for TMS Eighth-Grade Students and Families



## Spotlight: Language Arts

In a few days, your student will be taking the Georgia Milestones Assessments (GMAS) in all **four** academic areas: Language Arts, Algebra, Science, and Social Studies. This state assessment measures how well eighth-grade students have learned the knowledge and skills in each area, and provides information about student achievement and readiness to move onto the next level of learning.

In eighth grade, this is especially important— passing GMAS in Language Arts and Math is required in order to be promoted to ninth grade. In Language Arts, this means that students must read and comprehend high-level texts, and write well-developed responses in a relatively short amount of time. The chart to the right shows some of the skills that students must demonstrate:

**NEVER FEAR—  
OUR STUDENTS WILL BE READY!**

Teachers are working with students on a daily basis, unpacking assessment data and providing targeted support for students who have not yet mastered the required content. eCLASS pages are updated with tons of resources, including practice assessments and writing prompts -- all as part of regular instruction! (Additional resources can be found on the back of this page.)

Proficient Learner	Distinguished Learner
<p>In general, your child can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• determine a theme or central idea in complex, grade-level text and analyze its development</li><li>• write arguments and address counterclaims, using clear reasons and relevant evidence</li><li>• write informational texts with analysis of relevant facts and examples</li><li>• write structured narratives with descriptive details and well-structured event sequences</li><li>• generate additional questions to investigate while conducting short research projects</li></ul>	<p>In general, your child can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• assess the strength of ideas that support the central idea and provide a thorough summary of complex, above-grade-level text</li><li>• write conclusive arguments and address counterclaims with facts and reasoned arguments</li><li>• write precise, well-developed informational texts with analysis of relevant facts and examples</li><li>• write descriptive narratives with well-chosen details and precise language</li><li>• conduct sustained research projects to answer questions or solve problems</li></ul>

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP YOUR CHILD EXCEL?

- **Mark your calendars!** Attendance is crucial during the weeks leading up to and including the GMAS exams.
- **Know the numbers!** If your student has failed to meet grade-level expectations in past years, help them prepare at home. Challenge your proficient student to move to distinguished!
- **Ask questions!** Ask your student how they are preparing and how you can help. Remind them of resources!
- **Believe!** The GMAS is one indicator of student learning in GCPS – and it is powerful. Talk to your child's teacher if you have questions.

## 2022 8ELA TESTING DATES:

THURSDAY, APRIL 21	8ELA SECTION I
FRIDAY, APRIL 22	8ELA SECTIONS 2 & 3





In eighth grade, students must score at least 525+ for Proficient OR 581+ for Distinguished on the Language Arts GMAS. Students are also expected to demonstrate a Lexile score of 1185L or higher. In addition to meeting scoring requirements, ALL students are expected to show growth from the previous year's testing.

## WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Check out these resources from the Georgia Department of Education regarding the Georgia Milestones Assessment System:

- \*a printable [GMAS Grade 8 Study/Resource Guide for Students and Parents](#)
- \*information about the [Lexile framework for reading](#)
- \*an explanation about [GMAS achievement levels](#)



## WANT TO HELP YOUR STUDENT BE THEIR BEST?

Use these resources to continue learning at home!

\*AMPLIFY

\*HMH

... and be sure to check out your student's eCLASS pages for additional resources!

Remember, one of the biggest predictors of academic success is **Independent Reading!** Talk to your child about IR – and make sure they are reading **EVERY DAY!**

Variation In Amount Of Independent Reading				
Percentile Rank	Minutes of Reading per Day		Words Read per Year	
	Books	Text	Books	Text
98	65.0	67.3	4,358,000	4,733,000
90	21.2	33.4	1,823,000	2,357,000
80	14.2	24.6	1,146,000	1,697,000
70	9.6	16.9	622,000	1,168,000
60	6.5	13.1	432,000	722,000
50	4.6	9.2	282,000	601,000
40	3.2	6.2	200,000	421,000
30	1.8	4.3	106,000	251,000
20	.7	2.4	21,000	134,000
10	.1	1.0	8,000	51,000
2	.0	0	0	8,000



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Want to see what the GMAS testing platform looks like? [Click here](#) to experience the online testing platform and explore some of the tools students will have available!