

DOLPHIN RESEARCH CENTER

Florida Grade 8 Teachers

Dear Florida Eighth Grade Teachers,

Thank you for considering bringing your students to the Dolphin Research Center. We have a variety of educational opportunities available to you and they are all listed on our website. However, just coming on site allows you to meet a variety of educational standards that are a part of your educational curriculum.

We have narrated sessions and theater presentations all day long. Attending these sessions will meet many of the Language Arts Florida Standards (LAFS) for speaking and listening including:

- **LAFS.8.SL.1.1** Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 8 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly. a. Come to discussions prepared, having read or researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence on the topic, text, or issue to probe and reflect on ideas under discussion. b. Follow rules for collegial discussions and decision-making, track progress toward specific goals and deadlines, and define individual roles as needed. c. Pose questions that connect the ideas of several speakers and respond to others' questions and comments with relevant evidence, observations, and ideas. d. Acknowledge new information expressed by others, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views in light of the evidence presented.
- **LAFS.8.SL.2.4** Present claims and findings, emphasizing salient points in a focused, coherent manner with relevant evidence, sound valid reasoning, and well-chosen details; use appropriate eye contact, adequate volume, and clear pronunciation.
- **LAFS.8.SL.2.6** Adapt speech to a variety of contexts and tasks, demonstrating command of formal English when indicated or appropriate.

Second we have educational signs stationed throughout the grounds. These signs alone can meet many of the LAFS related to the reading of informational text. Again, you may choose to expand on the topics with your students back in the classroom to incorporate other LAFS related to writing.

- **LAFS.8.RI.1.1** Cite the textual evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- **LAFS.8.RI.1.2** Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including its relationship to supporting ideas; provide an objective summary of the text.
- **LAFS.8.RI.1.3** Analyze how a text makes connections among and distinctions between individuals, ideas, or events (e.g., through comparisons, analogies, or categories).



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- **LAFS.8.RI.2.4** Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative, connotative, and technical meanings; analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone, including analogies or allusions to other texts.
- **LAFS.8.RI.2.5** Analyze in detail the structure of a specific paragraph in a text, including the role of particular sentences in developing and refining a key concept.
- **LAFS.8.RI.3.7** Evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of using different mediums (e.g., print or digital text, video, multimedia) to present a particular topic or idea.

In addition to meeting the LAFS our narrations and signs also provide information that is related to the following Next Generation Sunshine State Standards for Science (NGSSS):

- **SC.8.N.1.5** Analyze the methods used to develop a scientific explanation as seen in different fields of science.
- **SC.8.N.1.6** Understand that scientific investigations involve the collection of relevant empirical evidence; the use of logical reasoning; and the application of imagination in devising hypotheses, predictions, explanations, and models to make sense of the collected evidence.
- **SC.8.N.4.1** Explain that science is one of the processes that can be used to inform decision making at the community, state, national, and international levels.

You may opt to have students take what they have learned here and apply it to a research project (informational or persuasive) back at your school, allowing for the integration of additional writing standards. You may find a detailed list of these standards by visiting the grade appropriate standards letter for the state of Florida.

We thank you for your consideration and sincerely hope that you will take the time to bring your students to visit our dolphins in our wonderful natural classroom!

Dolphin Research Center Education Team

