**SPEAKING AND LISTENING**

Speaking and listening are essential components in our schools, our homes, our communities, and our places of work. Direct, interpersonal communication is the cornerstone of human relationships, and nowhere is this more clearly articulated than in dialogue, discussion, presentation, and debate. Successful students must be able to communicate in multiple mediums, through conversations, interviews, digital presentations, and countless day-to-day interactions that build understanding of their world and the perspectives of their peers. Key to success in our modern world is interaction with diverse others and ever-changing groups, and creating and following community guidelines and rules, which is a critical practice for civic responsibility later in life.

Speaking and listening standards do not stand alone; like all English Language Arts skills, they are interconnected. Early speaking and listening skills in primary grades are foundational to close reading skills in later grades, and throughout school and life the ability to understand, analyze, and evaluate others’ words helps everyone develop a richer and deeper awareness of human motivation and purpose.