Welcome to Parent Curriculum Night

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Parents' Guide to Student Success

This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of 5th grade in mathematics and English language arts/literacy. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for 6th grade.

Why Are Academic Standards Important?
Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in college and the workforce. Standards provide an important first step—a clear roadmap for learning for teachers, parents, and students. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed. They also will help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare him or her for college and career.

English Language Arts & Literacy

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 5th Grade

- Summarizing the key details of stories, dramas, poems, and nonfiction materials, including their themes or main ideas
- Identifying and judging evidence that supports particular ideas in an author’s argument to change a reader’s point of view
- Integrating information from several print and digital sources to answer questions and solve problems
- Writing opinions that offer reasoned arguments and provide facts and examples that are logically grouped to support the writer’s point of view
- Writing stories, real or imaginary, that unfold naturally and developing the plot with dialogue, description, and effective pacing of the action
- Coming to classroom discussions prepared, then engaging fully and thoughtfully with others (e.g., contributing accurate, relevant information; elaborating on the remarks of others; synthesizing ideas)
- Reporting on a topic or presenting an opinion with his or her own words, a logical sequence of ideas, sufficient facts and details, and formal English when appropriate
- Expanding, combining, and reducing sentences to improve meaning, interest, and style of writing
- Building knowledge of academic words with an emphasis on those that signal a contrast in ideas or logical relationships, such as on the other hand, similarly, and therefore
- Producing writing on the computer

Talking to Your Child’s Teacher

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 5th grade, these include:

- Reading closely and drawing evidence from grade-level fiction and nonfiction materials, including the ability to quote accurately from them when answering questions
- Adjusting communications to accomplish a particular purpose (e.g., providing more background information for audiences who do not know the topic well)
Mathematics

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 5th Grade

- Adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators (e.g., 2/4 - 1/3), and solving word problems of this kind
- Multiplying fractions; dividing fractions in simple cases; and solving related word problems (e.g., finding the area of a rectangle with fractional side lengths; determining how many 1/3-cup servings are in 2 cups of raisins; determining the size of a share if 9 people share a 50-pound sack of rice equally or if 3 people share 1/2 pound of chocolate equally)
- Generalizing the place-value system to include decimals, and calculating with decimals to the hundredths place (two places after the decimal)
- Multiplying whole numbers quickly and accurately, for example 1,638 ÷ 23; and dividing whole numbers in simple cases, such as dividing 6,971 by 63
- Understanding the concept of volume, and solving word problems that involve volume
- Graphing points in the coordinate plane (two dimensions) to solve problems
- Analyzing mathematical patterns and relationships

Talking to Your Child’s Teacher

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 5th grade, these include:
- Multiplying and dividing fractions, and solving related word problems
- Decimals (concepts and arithmetic)
- Volume (concepts and problem-solving)

Help Your Child Learn at Home

Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics. Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

English Language Arts & Literacy
- Invite your child to read his or her writing out loud to other family members. Ask questions about your child's word choices and ideas
- Go to a play or musical with your child. Discuss the way the actors bring the words to life
- Discuss your family stories and history. Encourage your child to ask relatives questions about their lives. Put the information together in an album or brainstorm different ways to tell family tales, such as poems or short stories

Mathematics
Look for "word problems" in real life. Some 5th grade examples might include:
- Doing arithmetic with decimals, for example when balancing a checkbook
- Multiplying with fractions — for example, if you used about 2/3 of a 3/4-cup measure of vegetable stock, then how much stock did you use? About how much is left?
- Using the length, width, and depth of a garden plot to determine how many bags of garden soil to buy

For more information, the full standards are available at www.corestandards.org
Parents’ Guide to Student Success

This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of 6th grade in mathematics and English language arts/literacy. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for 7th grade.

Why Are Academic Standards Important?
Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in college and the workforce. Standards provide an important first step—a clear roadmap for learning for teachers, parents, and students. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed. They also will help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare him or her for college and career.

English Language Arts & Literacy

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 6th Grade

- Gaining knowledge from materials that make extensive use of elaborate diagrams and data to convey information and illustrate concepts
- Evaluating the argument and specific claims in written materials or a speech, and distinguishing claims that are supported by reasons and evidence from claims that are not
- Presenting claims and findings to others orally, sequencitng ideas logically, and accentuating main ideas or themes
- Writing brief reports that examine a topic, have a clear focus, and include relevant facts, details, and quotations
- Conducting short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and sharpening the focus based on the research findings
- Reviewing and paraphrasing key ideas and multiple perspectives of a speaker
- Determining the correct meaning of a word based on the context in which it is used (e.g., the rest of the sentence or paragraph; a word’s position or function in a sentence)

Talking to Your Child’s Teacher

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 6th grade, these include:

- Reading closely and citing evidence from grade-level fiction and nonfiction to support an analysis of what the materials say
- Developing a rich vocabulary of complex and sophisticated words and using them to speak and write more precisely and coherently
Mathematics

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 6th Grade

- Understanding ratios and rates, and solving problems involving proportional relationships (e.g., if it took 7 hours to mow 4 lawns, then at that rate, how many lawns could be mowed in 35 hours?)
- Dividing fractions and solving related word problems (e.g., how wide is a rectangular strip of land with length 3/4 mile and area 1/2 square mile?)
- Using positive and negative numbers together to describe quantities; understanding the ordering and absolute values of positive and negative numbers
- Working with variables and expressions by generalizing the way numbers work (e.g., when adding numbers, the order doesn’t matter, so \( x + y = y + x \)); likewise, properties of addition and multiplication can be used to rewrite \( 24x + 18y = 6(4x + 3y) \), or \( x + y = y + x \);
- Writing equations to solve word problems and describe relationships between quantities (e.g., the distance \( D \) traveled by a train in time \( T \) might be expressed by an equation \( D = 85T \), where \( D \) is in miles and \( T \) is in hours)
- Reasoning about relationships between shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume

Talking to Your Child’s Teacher

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 6th grade, these include:

- Analyzing and solving problems using concepts of ratio and rate
- Working with variables and expressions
- Analyzing and solving word problems using equations

Help Your Child Learn at Home

Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics. Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

**English Language Arts & Literacy**

- Listen with your child to a television reporter, politician, or other speaker. Ask your child to tell you the speaker’s main points. Was the speaker trying to convince the audience of something? How?
- Encourage your child to learn at the library or on the Internet what life in your community was like 100 years ago. Have your child write a story, poem, or play about that time

**Mathematics**

Look for “word problems” in real life. Some 6th grade examples might include:

- Determining the average speed of a family trip, based on the distance traveled and the time taken, or estimating the time that a trip will take, given the distance and an estimate of the average speed
- Finding the surface area of the walls and ceiling in a room to determine the cost of painting the room

For more information, the full standards are available at [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)
Parents’ Guide to
Student Success

This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of 7th grade in mathematics and English language arts/literacy. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for 8th grade.

Why Are Academic Standards Important?
Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in college and the workforce.

Standards provide an important first step — a clear roadmap for learning for teachers, parents, and students. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed. They also will help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare him or her for college and career.

English Language Arts & Literacy

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 7th Grade

• Citing several sources of specific evidence from a piece when offering an oral or written analysis of a book, essay, article, or play
• Organizing and focusing his or her own writing, including supporting statements and conclusions with evidence and showing that the evidence is accurate and reliable
• Conducting research in response to a specific question by drawing on evidence from several credible literary or informational sources to support an analysis or reflection
• Avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citations (e.g., footnotes, bibliography)

• Evaluating a speaker’s key points and reasoning, asking questions, and stating his or her own well-supported ideas in discussions
• Presenting claims and findings to others emphasizing main points, making eye contact, speaking loudly enough, pronouncing words clearly, and using formal English when the situation calls for it
• Using common, grade-appropriate Greek or Latin affixes and roots as clues to defining the meaning of a word (e.g., semi-, semiannual, semicircle)

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 7th grade, these include:

• Reading closely and citing several sources of evidence from grade-level fiction and nonfiction works to support an analysis of what the material says
• Developing a rich vocabulary of complex and sophisticated words and using them to speak and write more precisely and coherently
Mathematics

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 7th Grade

- Analyzing proportional relationships (e.g., by graphing in the coordinate plane), and distinguishing proportional relationships from other kinds of mathematical relationships (e.g., buying 10 times as many items will cost you 10 times as much, but taking 10 times as many aspirins will not lower your fever 10 times as much)
- Solving percent problems (e.g., tax, tips, and markups and markdowns)
- Solving word problems that have a combination of whole numbers, fractions, and decimals (e.g., a woman making $25 per hour receives a 10% raise; she will make an additional \( \frac{1}{10} \) of her salary an hour, or $2.50, for a new salary of $27.50)
- Solving equations such as \( \frac{1}{2} (x - 3) = 4 \) quickly and accurately, and writing equations of this kind to solve word problems
- Solving problems involving scale drawings
- Using statistics to draw inferences and make comparisons (e.g., deciding which candidate is likely to win an election based on a survey)

Talking to Your Child’s Teacher

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 7th grade, these include:
- Analyzing proportional relationships
- Arithmetic with positive and negative numbers
- Solving equations quickly and accurately, and writing equations to solve word problems

Help Your Child Learn at Home

Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics. Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

**English Language Arts & Literacy**

- Visit a local art museum together. Take time to closely observe the details of the paintings or other art objects and talk about what you see there.
- Ask your child who his or her favorite authors are. Why does your child like their books? What ideas does the author write about? Who are his or her favorite characters? Why? To find recommendations of books for your child to read, visit www.corestandards.org/assets/Appdx_B.pdf

**Mathematics**

Look for “word problems” in real life. Some 7th grade examples might include:
- Figuring the amount of a 15% tip or determining what percentage of weekly income goes to pay taxes
- For a long-term project, help your child choose a stock and follow its value on the stock market using the newspaper or the Internet. Have your child calculate the stock’s percent increase or decrease each month

For more information, the full standards are available at www.corestandards.org
Parents’ Guide to Student Success

This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of 8th grade in mathematics and English language arts/literacy. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for high school.

Why Are Academic Standards Important?
Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in college and the workforce. Standards provide an important first step — a clear roadmap for learning for teachers, parents, and students. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed. They also will help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare him or her for college and career.

English Language Arts & Literacy

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 8th Grade

- Citing the evidence that most strongly supports an analysis of what is explicitly stated and/or implied from a book, article, poem, or play
- Analyzing where materials on the same topic disagree on matters of fact, interpretation, or point of view
- Building writing around strong central ideas or points of view; supporting the ideas with sound reasoning and evidence; precise word choices, smooth transitions, and different sentence structures
- Planning and conducting research projects that include several steps and use many credible and documented print and digital sources

- Analyzing the purpose of information presented in diverse media (e.g., print, TV, web) and evaluating its social, political, or commercial motives
- Presenting findings and claims to others, emphasizing key points with relevant evidence and sound reasoning, adapting speech to the audience and the formality of the setting, and responding to questions and comments with relevant observations and ideas
- Using strong, active verbs to create a clear picture for the reader (e.g., walk, skip, meander, lurch, limp)
- Interpreting figures of speech (e.g., irony, puns) and developing a large vocabulary of general academic words and phrases

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 8th grade, these include:

- Reading closely and drawing evidence from grade-level fiction and non-fiction works that most strongly supports an analysis of the material
- Developing a rich vocabulary of complex and sophisticated words and using them to speak and write more precisely and coherently
Mathematics

A Sample of What Your Child Will Be Working on in 8th Grade

- Understanding slope, and relating linear equations in two variables to lines in the coordinate plane
- Solving linear equations (e.g., \(-x + 5(x + 1/3) = 2x - 8\); solving pairs of linear equations (e.g., 
  \(x + 6y = -1\) and \(2x - 2y = 12\)); and writing equations to solve related word problems
- Understanding functions as rules that assign a unique output number to each input number; using linear functions to model relationships
- Analyzing statistical relationships by using a best-fit line (a straight line that models an association between two quantities)
- Working with positive and negative exponents, square root and cube root symbols, and scientific notation (e.g., evaluating \(0.36 \times 64\); estimating world population as \(7 \times 10^9\))
- Understanding congruence and similarity using physical models, transparencies, or geometry software (e.g., given two congruent figures, show how to obtain one from the other by a sequence of rotations, translations, and/or reflections)

Talking to Your Child’s Teacher

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 8th grade, these include:

- Linear equations with one and two variables
- Functions
- Congruence and similarity of geometric figures

Help Your Child Learn at Home

Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate. You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will help you become informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics. Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

**English Language Arts & Literacy**

- Make time in everyone’s busy schedule for family discussions about things going on around the world. Weekends can be a chance for everyone to catch up.
- Visit the campus of a local college with your teen. Begin talking about college early. What does he or she expect from college? What high school courses will your child need to pass to prepare for college?

**Mathematics**

- Ask your child to share with you any work he or she is doing in math class that strikes him or her as interesting. Some possibilities might include:
  - Solving interesting problems involving cylinders and spheres, such as figuring out how much water fits inside a garden hose, or how many ears would fit inside the sun
  - Analyzing data with a scatterplot, for example to decide whether exercise and obesity are related

For more information, the full standards are available at [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org)