



Grade 5

Parents' Guide to Student Success

THIS GUIDE INCLUDES:

- An overview of some of the key things your child will learn in English/Literacy, Math, Social Studies and Science in elementary school
- Ideas for activities to help your child learn more at home
- Topics of discussion for talking to your child's teacher about his or her academic progress

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The Parent Guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of Grade 5 in Mathematics, English Language Arts/Literacy, Social Studies and Science. This guide is based on the MA Curriculum Framework for ELA and Literacy, the MA Mathematics Framework, the MA History and Social Science Framework, and the MA Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in the standards, he or she will be well prepared for the sixth 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. Clearly defined goals also 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 Work On in Grade 5

- Summarizing the key details of stories, dramas, poems, and nonfiction, including their themes or main ideas
- Quoting accurately from a text when explaining what a text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from a text
- Comparing and contrasting two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on details in the text
- Analyzing how visual and multimedia elements contribute to the meaning of a text
- Identifying and judging evidence that supports particular ideas in an author's argument to influence 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 that develop a plot with dialogue, description, and effective pacing of the action
- Writing informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly
- Engaging fully and thoughtfully in classroom discussions with accurate, relevant information; elaborating on the remarks of others
- Reporting on a topic 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 emphasis on those that signal a contrast in ideas or logical relationships

**Talking to
Your Child's
Teacher**

Keeping the Conversation Focused

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

- Reading and comprehending a range of grade-level books, stories, poems, and informational texts such as biographies, articles, or guidebooks about history, science or the arts
- Building understanding of relationships between words and nuances in word meanings – synonyms, antonyms, idioms - and using this knowledge to convey ideas precisely
- Writing opinions, narratives, and informative texts with organization for different purposes and audiences

Ask to see a sample of your child's work. Ask the teacher questions such as: What does this show about my child as a learner? Does my child need extra support or want to learn more about a subject; are there resources to help his or her learning outside the classroom?

Mathematics

A Sample of What Your Child Will Work On in Grade 5

- Adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators and solving word problems of this kind
- Multiplying fractions; dividing fractions in simple cases and related word problems
- Generalizing the place-value system to include decimals, and calculating with decimals to the hundredths place (two places after a decimal)
- Multiplying multi-digit whole numbers with decimals to the hundredths, quickly and accurately
- 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
- Gaining familiarity with concepts of positive and negative integers

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- Multiplying and dividing fractions, and solving related word problems
- Understanding decimals (concepts and arithmetic)
- Understanding volume (concepts and problem-solving)

Science

A Sample of What Your Child Will Work On in Grade 5

- Obtaining and displaying data about relationships and interactions of living and nonliving things within a system
- Understanding that plants and animals within a system are connected and dependent on each other
- Demonstrating the relationships between objects nearby Earth in the solar system and the impact of those objects as seen from Earth
- Understanding human processes with Earth's resources
- Developing connections between the natural and man-made world and draw comparisons between them

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- Understanding how energy works, transfers, and converts from one context to another
- Understanding how landforms change over time due to Earth's processes
- Building, testing and redesigning prototypes to fit a specific purpose

Social Studies

A Sample of What Your Child Will Work On in Grade 5

- Identifying different ways of dating historical narratives (e.g., colonial period, 18th century, seventeenth century)
- Interpreting timelines of events studied
- Using maps and globes to identify absolute locations (latitude and longitude)
- Comparing maps of the modern world with historical maps
- Describing the earliest explorations of the New World by the Vikings
- Identifying the three major pre-Columbian civilizations in Central and South America: Maya, Aztec, and Inca
- Identifying early explorers and their discoveries (e.g., Columbus, Magellan, Cabot, Champlain, Vespucci)
- Giving examples of the ways people save their money and explain the advantages and disadvantages of each
- Defining what an entrepreneur is and giving examples from colonial history (e.g., Peter Faneuil, Benjamin Franklin)
- Giving examples of how changes in supply and demand affected prices in colonial history (e.g., fur, lumber, fish, meat)
- Identifying, on a map of North America, the first thirteen colonies and describing how regional differences shaped their economies
- Defining and using correctly words related to government (e.g., citizen, rights, representation, federal, suffrage)
- Explaining the development of colonial governments and describing how these developments contributed to the Revolution.
- Explaining the meaning of the key ideas on equality, natural rights, the rule of law, and the purpose of government contained in the Declaration of Independence.
- Describing the basic political principles of American democracy and explaining how the Constitution and the Bill of Rights reflect and preserve these principles
- Identifying the three branches of the United States government as outlined by the Constitution and describing their functions and relationships
- Describing the expedition of Lewis and Clark from 1803 to 1806

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

- Participating in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about Fourth Grade topics and texts
- Reading and demonstrating understanding of grade-level informational text
- Determining the main idea of a text and explaining how it is supported by key details; summarizing a text
- Interpreting information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g. charts, graphs, maps, diagrams)
- Integrating information from two texts on the same topic in order to write or speak about the subject knowledgeably
- Determining the meaning of domain-specific words or phrases in a text relevant to a Grade 5 topic or subject area
- Writing informative texts and opinions with focused topics and organizational structures including key details and evidence, graphics, quotations, and conclusion

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