Council of the Great City Schools

parent ROADMAP

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD IN GRADE THREE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

America's schools are working to provide higher quality instruction than ever before.

The way we taught students in the past simply does not prepare them for the higher demands of college and careers today and in the future. Your school and schools throughout the country are working to improve teaching and learning to ensure that all children will graduate high school with the skills they need to be successful.

In English language arts and literacy, this means three major changes. Students will continue reading and writing. But in addition to stories and literature, they will read more texts that provide facts and background knowledge in areas including science and social studies. They will read more challenging texts and be asked more questions that will require them to refer back to what they have read. There will also be an increased emphasis on building a strong vocabulary so that students can read and understand challenging material.

What your child will be learning in grade three English language arts and literacy

In grade three, students will build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will think, talk, and write about what they read in a variety of articles, books, and other texts. In their writing, students will pay more attention to organizing information, developing ideas, and supporting these ideas with facts, details, and reasons. Activities in these areas will include:

- Reading a wide range of stories and describing how a story teaches a lesson
- Describing characters in a story and how their actions contributed to events
- Reading texts about history, social studies, or science and answering questions about what they learned
- Referring to information from illustrations such as maps or pictures as well as the words in a text to support their answers
- Learning the rules of spoken and written English
- Learning and using new words, including words related to specific subjects (such as science words)
- Participating in class discussions by listening, asking questions, sharing ideas, and building on the ideas of others
- Giving a class presentation on a topic or telling a story using relevant facts and details and speaking clearly
- Writing stories with dialogue and descriptions of character's actions, thoughts, and feelings
- Gathering information from books, articles, and online sources to build understanding of a topic
- Writing research or opinion papers over extended periods of time

Partnering with your child's teacher

Don't be afraid to reach out to your child's teacher—you are an important part of your child's education. Ask to see a sample of your child's work or bring a sample with you. Ask the teacher questions like:

- Is my child at the level where he/she should be at this point of the school year?
- What do you think is giving my child the most trouble? How can I help my child improve in this area?
- Where is my child excelling? How can I support this success?

In grade three, students will read stories, plays, and poems. Additionally, they will read to learn information about history, the world, science, and other areas. Here are just a few examples of how your child will develop important reading skills across grade levels.

READING LITERATURE

Grade Two Reading	Grade Three Reading	Grade Four Reading
• Students retell stories and determine the central message, lesson, or moral. • Students acknowledge differences in the points of view of characters, including by speaking in a different voice for each character when reading dialogue aloud.	• Students recount stories and determine the central message, lesson, or moral, explaining how it is developed in the text. • Students distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.	• Students determine the theme of a story, play, or poem from details in the text and summarize the text. • Students compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are told, including the difference between first- and third-person accounts.

READING FOR INFORMATION

Grade Two Reading	Grade Three Reading	Grade Four Reading
• Students ask and answer such questions as *who*, *what*, *where*, *when*, *why*, and *how* to demonstrate understanding of key details in a text. • Students explain how specific images or illustrations (such as a diagram of how a machine works) are useful.	• Students ask and answer questions about what they read by referring directly to parts of the text. • Students use information gained from images or illustrations.	• Students refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text. • Students interpret information presented in charts, graphs, or other visual sources of information and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text.

As they progress through grade levels, students will be asked more questions that require them to cite details or information from increasingly challenging texts. This will encourage them to become observant and analytical readers.

Writing tasks in grade three may include stories, essays, reports, and opinion papers. Here are just a few examples of how your child will develop important writing skills across grade levels.

Grade Two Writing	Grade Three Writing	Grade Four Writing
• Students introduce a topic and use facts and definitions to develop their points. • Students provide a concluding statement or section.	• Students introduce a topic and use facts, definitions, and details to develop points. • Students provide a concluding statement or section. • Students group related information together. • Students use linking words and phrases to connect ideas, such as *also*, *another*, and *but*.	• Students introduce a topic clearly and develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information. • Students provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented. • Students group related information in paragraphs and sections and use formatting (such as headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful. • Students link ideas within categories of information using words and phrases such as *another, for example, also,* and *because*. • Students use precise language and subject-specific vocabulary.

Some writing guidelines may seem similar from year to year. However, with practice at each grade level, students continue to learn and apply the rules of standard written English and to strengthen and expand their vocabulary, use of language, and organization of ideas.

Helping your child learn outside of school

1. Provide time and space for your child to read independently. This time should be free from distractions such as television.
2. Ask your child what topics, events, or activities he or she likes. Then look for books, magazines, or other materials about those topics that would motivate your child to read.
3. It is also helpful when your child sees other people reading at home. You could share what you have read.
4. Start a family book club. Let different members of the family pick the book. This could be a good way to enjoy quality family time while experiencing the joy of reading together!
5. Be sure your child has a library card. Children should select books they are interested in to develop a passion for reading. Many libraries have book clubs and family activities that make reading fun for the entire family.
6. Use technology to help build your child's interest in reading. There are several websites where students can read books or articles online. The computer will help with words the student cannot read independently. Libraries also have computers students can use to access those sites. Feel free to ask a librarian or teacher for suggestions.

Additional Resources

For more information on the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts and Literacy, go to http://www.corestandards.org/the-standards/english-language-arts-standards.

Council of the Great City Schools

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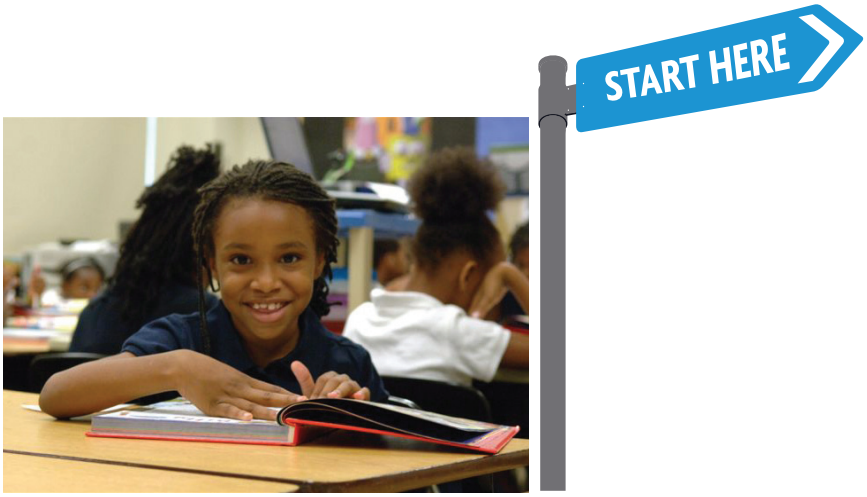
SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD IN GRADE THREE

MATHEMATICS



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In mathematics, this means three major changes. Teachers will concentrate on teaching a more focused set of major math concepts and skills. This will allow students time to master important ideas and skills in a more organized way throughout the year and from one grade to the next. It will also call for teachers to use rich and challenging math content and to engage students in solving real-world problems in order to inspire greater interest in mathematics.

What your child will be learning in grade three mathematics

In grade three, students will continue to build their concept of numbers, developing an understanding of fractions as numbers. They will learn the concepts behind multiplication and division and apply problem-solving skills and strategies for multiplying and dividing numbers up through 100 to solve word problems. Students will also make connections between the concept of the area of a rectangle and multiplication and addition of whole numbers. Activities in these areas will include:

- Understanding and explaining what it means to multiply or divide numbers
- Multiplying all one-digit numbers from memory (knowing their times table)
- Multiplying one-digit numbers by multiples of 10 (such as 20, 30, 40)
- Solving two-step word problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division
- Understanding the concept of area
- Relating the measurement of area to multiplication and division
- Understanding fractions as numbers
- Understanding and identifying a fraction as a number on a number line
- Comparing the size of two fractions
- Expressing whole numbers as fractions and identifying fractions that are equal to whole numbers (for example, recognizing that $\frac{3}{1}$ and 3 are the same number)
- Measuring weights and volumes and solving word problems involving these measurements
- Representing and interpreting data

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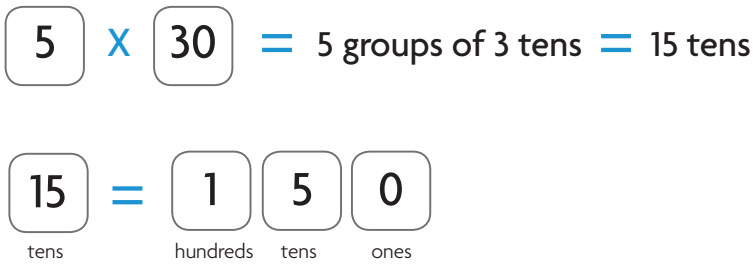
- Where is my child excelling? How can I support this success?
- What do you think is giving my child the most trouble? How can I help my child improve in this area?
- What can I do to help my child with upcoming work?

Here are just a few examples of how students will develop and use their understanding of place value in grade three.

Grade Two Mathematics	Grade Three Mathematics	Grade Four Mathematics
• Understand that 100 can be thought of as a bundle of ten tens—called a "hundred"	• Use place value understanding to round whole numbers to the nearest 10 or 100	• Use place value understanding to round multi-digit whole numbers to any place
• Understand that the three digits of a three-digit number represent amounts of hundreds, tens, and ones (place value)	• Quickly and accurately add and subtract numbers through 1000 using knowledge of place value	• Use place value understanding to find the product of two multi-digit numbers
• Add and subtract numbers through 1000 using what students have learned about place value	• Use place value understanding to multiply and divide numbers up through 100	• Recognize that in a multi-digit whole number, a digit in one place represents ten times what it represents in the place to its right
	• Multiply one-digit whole numbers by multiples of 10 between 10 and 90. For example, 9×80 or 5×60	• Compare two multi-digit numbers based on the meanings of the digits in each place, using the symbols > (more than), = (equal to), and < (less than)

Students understand that 15 tens = 5 tens + 10 tens (or 1 hundred).

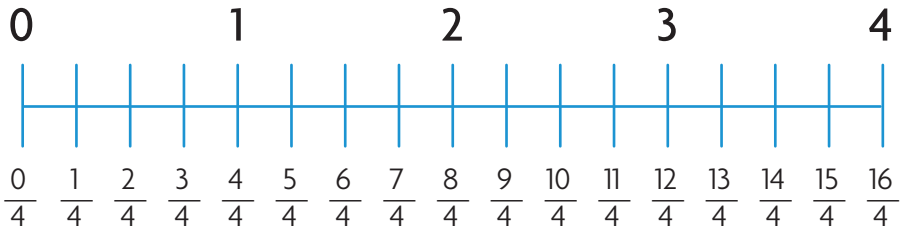


Students use their understanding of place value as a strategy for multiplying one-digit numbers by multiples of ten. This will prepare them to multiply two multi-digit numbers in grade four.

Here are just a few examples of how students will learn about and work with fractions in grade three.

Grade Two Mathematics	Grade Three Mathematics	Grade Four Mathematics
• Break circles and rectangles into two, three, or four equal parts • Describe parts of a whole using the words halves, thirds, half of, a third of, etc. • Describe a whole as two halves, three thirds, four fourths	• Determine a fraction's place on a number line by defining the length from 0 to 1 as the whole and "cutting it" into equal parts • Understand two fractions as equal if they are the same size or at the same point on a number line • Compare the size of two different fractions of the same size object. For example, which is bigger, ⅛ of a pizza or ⅙ of that same pizza?	• Break down a fraction into smaller fractions with the same denominator, or bottom number, in more than one way ($\frac{3}{8} = \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8} = \frac{2}{8} + \frac{1}{8}$) • Explain why a fraction is equal to another fraction • Add and subtract mixed numbers (whole numbers mixed with fractions, such as $1\frac{1}{5}$) with the same denominators • Multiply a fraction by a whole number

Using a number line helps students think of a fraction as a number.



Students begin to understand that fractions are sometimes the same quantity as a whole number ($\frac{8}{4} = 2$) and whole numbers can be expressed as fractions ($3 = \frac{12}{4}$).

Helping your child learn outside of school

1. Play math games with your child. For example, "*I'm thinking of two numbers whose product is between 20 and 30. How many pairs can you think of that would satisfy this problem?*" Have your child explain the solutions. How does he or she know that all the number pairs have been identified?
2. Encourage your child to write or describe numbers in different ways. For example, what are some different ways to make 1450? 1450 = 1 thousand, 4 hundreds, 5 tens, and 0 ones, or 1000 + 450, 14 hundreds and 50 ones, 13 hundreds + 15 tens, etc.
3. Use everyday objects to allow your child to explore the concept of fractions. For example, use measuring cups to have students demonstrate how many ⅓'s are in a whole, how many ¼ cups you need to make 1¼ cups, and how many times you have to refill a ½ cup measure to make 1½ cups.
4. Encourage your child to stick with it whenever a problem seems difficult. This will help your child see that **everyone** can learn math.
5. Praise your child when he or she makes an effort and share in the excitement when he or she solves a problem or understands something for the first time.

Additional Resources

For more information on the Common Core State Standards for mathematics, go to http://www.corestandards.org/about-the-standards/key-points-in-mathematics or http://www.commoncoreworks.org.

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Council of the Great City Schools

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SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD IN GRADE FOUR

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

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In English language arts and literacy, this means three major changes. Students will continue reading and writing. But in addition to stories and literature, they will read more texts that provide facts and background knowledge in areas including science and social studies. They will read more challenging texts and be asked more questions that will require them to refer back to what they have read. There will also be an increased emphasis on building a strong vocabulary so that students can read and understand challenging material.

What your child will be learning in grade four English language arts and literacy

In grade four, students will continue to build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will read more challenging literature, articles, and other sources of information and continue to grow their vocabulary. They will also be expected to clearly explain in detail what they have read by referring to details or information from the text. In writing, students will organize their ideas and develop topics with reasons, facts, details, and other information. Activities in these areas will include:

- Identifying the theme or main idea of a story, play, or poem
- Comparing stories from different cultures
- Explaining how an author uses facts, details, and evidence to support their points
- Reading and understanding information presented in charts, graphs, timelines, and other illustrations
- Learning the rules of spoken and written English
- Learning and using new words, including words related to specific subjects (such as science words)
- Participating in class discussions by listening, asking questions, sharing ideas, and building on the ideas of others
- Giving a class presentation on a topic or telling a story using relevant, organized facts and details and speaking clearly
- Writing stories with dialogue and descriptions of character's actions, thoughts, and feelings
- Taking notes and organizing information from books, articles, and online sources to learn more about a topic
- Writing research or opinion papers over extended periods of time

Partnering with your child's teacher

Don't be afraid to reach out to your child's teacher—you are an important part of your child's education. Ask to see a sample of your child's work or bring a sample with you. Ask the teacher questions like:

- Is my child at the level where he/she should be at this point of the school year?
- What do you think is giving my child the most trouble? How can I help my child improve in this area?
- Where is my child excelling? How can I support this success?

In grade four, students will read a wide range of literature, including stories, plays, and poems. Additionally, they will read to learn information about history, the world, science, and other areas. Here are just a few examples of how your child will develop important reading skills across grade levels.

READING LITERATURE

Grade Three Reading	Grade Four Reading	Grade Five Reading
• Students recount stories and determine the central message, lesson, or moral, explaining how it is developed in the text. • Students distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.	• Students determine the theme of a story, play, or poem from details in the text and summarize the text. • Students compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are told, including the difference between first- and third-person accounts.	• Students determine the theme of a story, play, or poem from details in the text, including how characters respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic, and students summarize the text. • Students describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described.

READING FOR INFORMATION

Grade Three Reading	Grade Four Reading	Grade Five Reading
• Students ask and answer questions about what they read by referring directly to parts of the text. • Students use information gained from images or illustrations.	• Students refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text. • Students interpret information presented in charts, graphs, or other visual sources of information and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text.	• Students quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text. • Students draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently.

As they progress through grade levels, students will be asked more questions that require them to cite details or information from increasingly challenging texts. This will encourage them to become observant and analytical readers.

Writing tasks in grade four may include stories, essays, reports, and persuasive papers. Here are just a few examples of how your child will develop important writing skills across grade levels.

Grade Three Writing	Grade Four Writing	Grade Five Writing
• Students introduce a topic and use facts, definitions, and details to develop points. • Students provide a concluding statement or section. • Students group related information together. • Students use linking words and phrases to connect ideas, such as *also*, *another*, and *but*.	• Students introduce a topic clearly and develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information. • Students provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented. • Students group related information in paragraphs and sections and use formatting (such as headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful. • Students link ideas within categories of information using words and phrases (such as *another, for example, also,* and *because*). • Students use precise language and subject-specific vocabulary.	• Students introduce a topic clearly, providing a general observation and focus, and develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information. • Students provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented. • Students group related information logically and use formatting (such as headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful. • Students link ideas within and across categories of information using words, phrases, and clauses (such as *in contrast* or *especially*). • Students use precise language and subject-specific vocabulary.

Some writing guidelines may seem similar from year to year. However, with practice at each grade level, students continue to learn and apply the rules of standard written English and to strengthen and expand their vocabulary, use of language, and organization of ideas.

Helping your child learn outside of school

1. Provide time and space for your child to read independently. This time should be free from distractions such as television.
2. Ask your child what he or she learned from reading and how that knowledge can be used in real life. Have him or her read the most interesting or useful sections aloud.
3. It is also helpful when your child sees other people reading at home. You could share what you have read.
4. Keep track of the time that your child spends reading every day. Note what kind of reading materials he or she likes (books, magazines, newspaper articles, the Internet, etc.). Then look for additional materials that would encourage your child to read more.
5. Be sure your child has a library card. Children should select books they are interested in to develop a passion for reading. Many libraries have book clubs and family activities that make reading fun for the entire family.
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SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD IN GRADE FOUR

MATHEMATICS

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In mathematics, this means three major changes. Teachers will concentrate on teaching a more focused set of major math concepts and skills. This will allow students time to master important ideas and skills in a more organized way throughout the year and from one grade to the next. It will also call for teachers to use rich and challenging math content and to engage students in solving real-world problems in order to inspire greater interest in mathematics.

What your child will be learning in grade four mathematics

In grade four, your child will use addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to solve word problems, including problems involving measurement of volume, mass, and time. Students will continue to build their understanding of fractions—creating equal fractions, comparing the size of fractions, adding and subtracting fractions, and multiplying fractions by whole numbers. They will also start to understand the relationship between fractions and decimals. Activities in these areas will include:

- Adding and subtracting whole numbers up to 1 million quickly and accurately
- Solving multi-step word problems, including problems involving measurement and converting measurements from larger to smaller units
- Multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers
- Extending understanding of fractions by comparing the size of two fractions with different numerators (top numbers) and different denominators (bottom numbers)
- Creating equal fractions ($\frac{3}{4} = \frac{3 \times 2}{4 \times 2} = \frac{6}{8}$)
- Adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator
- Building fractions from smaller fractions ($\frac{3}{8} = \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8}$)
- Connecting addition and subtraction of whole numbers to multiplying fractions by whole numbers
- Connecting addition of fractions to the concept of angle measurement
- Representing and interpreting data
- Converting fractions with denominators of 10 or 100 into decimals
- Locating decimals on a number line
- Comparing decimals and fractions using the symbols > (more than), = (equal to), and < (less than)

Partnering with your child's teacher

Don't be afraid to reach out to your child's teacher—you are an important part of your child's education. Ask to see a sample of your child's work or bring a sample with you. Ask the teacher questions like:

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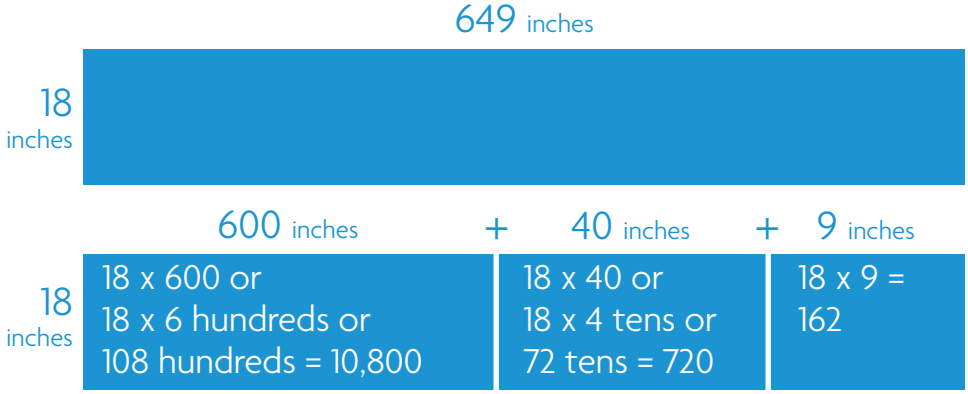
- What do you think is giving my child the most trouble? How can I help my child improve in this area?
- What can I do to help my child with upcoming work?

Here are just a few examples of how students will develop and use their understanding of place value in grade four.

Grade Three Mathematics	Grade Four Mathematics	Grade Five Mathematics
• Use place value understanding to round whole numbers to the nearest 10 or 100 • Quickly and accurately add and subtract numbers through 1000 using knowledge of place value • Use place value understanding to multiply and divide numbers up through 100 • Multiply one-digit whole numbers by multiples of 10 between 10 and 90. For example, 9×80 or 5×60	• Use place value understanding to round multi-digit whole numbers to any place • Recognize that in a multi-digit whole number, a digit in one place represents ten times what it represents in the place to its right • Use place value understanding to find the product of two multi-digit numbers • Compare two multi-digit numbers based on meanings of the digits in each place, using the symbols > (more than), = (equal to), and < (less than)	• Use place value understanding to round decimals to any place • Recognize that in a multi-digit number, a digit in one place represents 10 times as much as it represents in the place to its right and 1/10 of what it represents in the place to its left • Read, write, and compare decimals based on the meanings of the digits in the tenths, hundredths, and thousandths place, using the symbols >, =, and <

To find the area of this rectangle, students can first break it down into three parts. The length of each part can then be multiplied by the width of 18.

$$18(600+40+9) = 18x600+18x40+18x9.$$



Students use the concepts of area and place value as strategies to multiply multi-digit numbers. Students will explore a variety of strategies to deepen their understanding of multiplication.

Students learn that 649 x 18 is also equal to (649 x 10) + (649 x 8).

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  37
 649
x 18
5192
6490
11,682
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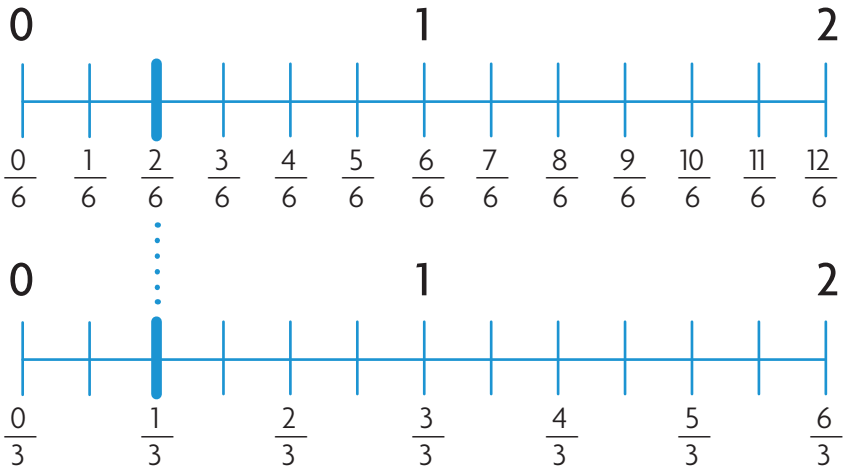
Here are just a few examples of how students will learn about and work with fractions in grade four.

Grade Three Mathematics	Grade four Mathematics	Grade Five Mathematics
• Determine a fraction's place on a number line by defining the length from 0 to 1 as the whole and "cutting it" into equal parts • Understand two fractions as equal if they are the same size or at the same point on a number line • Compare the size of two different fractions of the same size object. For example, which is bigger, $\frac{1}{8}$ of a pizza or $\frac{1}{6}$ of that same pizza?	• Break down a fraction into smaller fractions with the same denominator, or bottom number, in more than one way ($\frac{3}{8} = \frac{1}{8}+\frac{1}{8}+\frac{1}{8} = \frac{2}{8}+\frac{1}{8}$) • Explain why a fraction is equal to another fraction • Add and subtract mixed numbers (whole numbers mixed with fractions, such as $1\frac{1}{5}$) with the same denominators • Multiply a fraction by a whole number	• Interpret a fraction as division of the numerator (the top number) by the denominator (the bottom number) • Add and subtract fractions with different denominators • Multiply a fraction by a whole number or another fraction • Divide fractions by whole numbers and whole numbers by fractions

Students will use the number line to break fractions into smaller fractions and to show that $\frac{2}{6}=\frac{1}{3}$.



Understanding and creating equal fractions will prepare students for the next step: adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators.

Helping your child learn outside of school

1. Use everyday objects to allow your child to explore the concept of fractions. For example, use measuring cups so students see how many times you have to refill a ¼ cup to equal a ½ cup or how many ⅓'s are in two cups. Have students describe two fractions that are equal using a measuring cup (filling a ¼ measuring cup twice is the same as filling one ½ measuring cup).
2. Have your child write or describe fractions in different ways. For example, what are some different ways to make ¾? Answers could include ¼+¼+¼ or 3x¼
3. Ask your child create and describe equal fractions. For example, have students take a sheet of paper, fold the paper in half, and then unfold and shade ½. Then have students take the same sheet of paper and fold the paper in a half again. Unfold the paper and have students discuss the number of parts that are now shaded. Encourage your child to talk about ways to show that ½ =²⁄₄. (Students may continue this process creating other equal fractions.)
4. Encourage your child to stick with it whenever a problem seems difficult. This will help your child see that **everyone** can learn math.
5. Praise your child when he or she makes an effort and share in the excitement when he or she solves a problem or understands something for the first time.

Additional Resources

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Council of the Great City Schools

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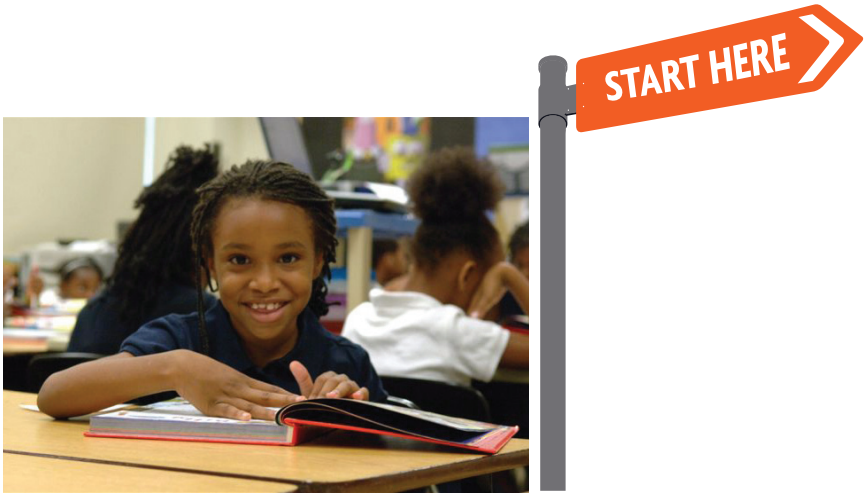
SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD IN GRADE FIVE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS



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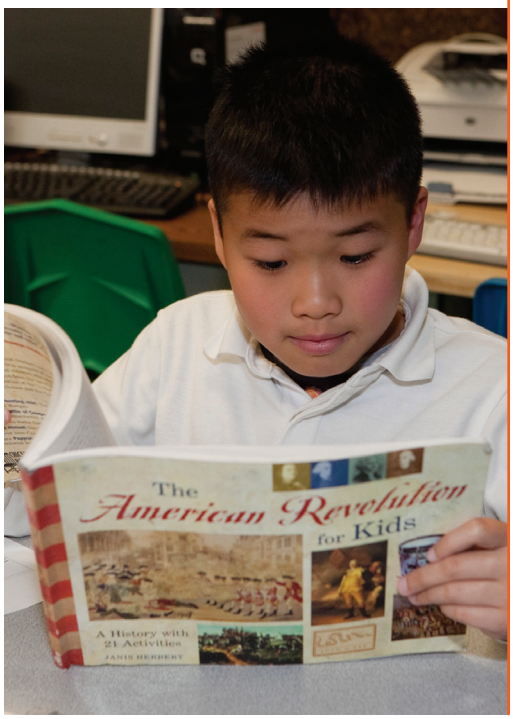
In English language arts and literacy, this means three major changes. Students will continue reading and writing. But in addition to stories and literature, they will read more texts that provide facts and background knowledge in areas including science and social studies. They will read more challenging texts and be asked more questions that will require them to refer back to what they have read. There will also be an increased emphasis on building a strong vocabulary so that students can read and understand challenging material.

What your child will be learning in grade five English language arts and literacy



In grade five, students will continue to build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will read more challenging literature, articles, and other sources of information and continue to grow their vocabulary. Students will also be expected to understand and clearly summarize what they have learned from readings and classroom discussions, referring to specific evidence and details from the text. Students will write regularly and continue to develop their ability to gather, organize, interpret, and present information. Activities in these areas will include:

- Determining the theme of a story, play, or poem, including how characters respond to challenges
- Comparing and contrasting stories that deal with similar themes or topics
- Explaining how authors use reasons and evidence to support their points or ideas
- Drawing on information from multiple books, articles, or online sources to locate an answer or to solve a problem quickly
- Learning the rules of spoken and written English
- Learning and using new words, including words related to specific subjects (such as science words)
- Understanding figurative language
- Participating in class discussions by listening, asking questions, sharing ideas, and building on the ideas of others
- Giving a class presentation on a topic or telling a story, introducing relevant facts and details in a clear, logical order
- Writing research or opinion papers over extended periods of time

For example, "She was as quiet as a mouse."

Partnering with your child's teacher

Don't be afraid to reach out to your child's teacher—you are an important part of your child's education. Ask to see a sample of your child's work or bring a sample with you. Ask the teacher questions like:

- Is my child at the level where he/she should be at this point of the school year?
- What do you think is giving my child the most trouble? How can I help my child improve in this area?
- Where is my child excelling? How can I support this success?

In grade five, students will read a wide range of literature, including stories, plays, and poems. Additionally, they will read to learn information about history, the world, science, and other areas. Here are just a few examples of how your child will develop important reading skills across grade levels.

READING LITERATURE

Grade Four Reading	Grade Five Reading	Grade Six Reading
• Students determine the theme of a story, play, or poem from details in the text and summarize the text. • Students compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are told, including the difference between first- and third-person accounts.	• Students determine the theme of a story, play, or poem from details in the text, including how characters respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic, and students summarize the text. • Students describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described.	• Students determine the theme or central idea of a text and how it is conveyed through particular details and provide a summary of the text without personal opinions or judgments. • Students explain how an author develops the point of view of the narrator or speaker in a text.

READING FOR INFORMATION

Grade Four Reading	Grade Five Reading	Grade Six Reading
• Students refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text. • Students interpret information presented in charts, graphs, or other visual sources of information and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text.	• Students quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text. • Students draw on information from multiple print or digital sources, demonstrating the ability to locate an answer to a question quickly or to solve a problem efficiently.	• Students cite evidence from the text to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. • Students integrate information presented in different media or formats (such as visually or through numbers) as well as in words to develop a coherent understanding of a topic or issue.

As they progress through grade levels, students will be asked more questions that require them to cite details or information from increasingly challenging texts. This will encourage them to become observant and analytical readers.

Writing tasks in grade five may include stories, essays, reports, and persuasive papers. Here are just a few examples of how your child will develop important writing skills across grade levels.

Grade Four Writing	Grade Five Writing	Grade Six Writing
• Students introduce a topic clearly and develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information. • Students provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented. • Students group related information in paragraphs and sections and use formatting (such as headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful. • Students link ideas within categories of information using words and phrases (such as *another*, *for example*, *also*, and *because*). • Students use precise language and subject-specific vocabulary.	• Students introduce a topic clearly, providing a general observation and focus, and develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information. • Students provide a concluding statement or section related to the information or explanation presented. • Students group related information logically and use formatting (such as headings), illustrations, and multimedia when useful. • Students link ideas within and across categories of information using words, phrases, and clauses (such as *in contrast* or *especially*). • Students use precise language and subject-specific vocabulary.	• Students introduce a topic and develop the topic with relevant facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information. • Students provide a concluding statement or section that follows from the information or explanation presented. • Students organize ideas, concepts, and information using strategies such as definition, classification, comparison/contrast, and cause/effect. • Students include formatting (such as headings), graphics (such as charts or tables), and multimedia when useful. • Students use appropriate transitions to clarify the relationships among ideas and concepts. • Students use precise language and subject-specific vocabulary. • Students establish and maintain a formal writing style.

Some writing guidelines may seem similar from year to year. However, with practice at each grade level, students continue to learn and apply the rules of standard written English and to strengthen and expand their vocabulary, use of language, and organization of ideas.

Helping your child learn outside of school

1. Provide time and space for your child to read independently. This time should be free from distractions such as television.
2. Ask your child what he or she learned from reading. Have him or her read the most interesting or useful sections aloud, and discuss how that knowledge can be used in real life.
3. Assist your child in using references such as the Internet or a dictionary to look up unfamiliar words.
4. Keep track of the time that your child spends reading every day. Note what kind of reading materials he or she likes (books, magazines, newspaper articles, the Internet, etc.). Then look for additional materials that would encourage your child to read more.
5. Be sure your child has a library card. Children should select books they are interested in to develop a passion for reading. Many libraries have book clubs and family activities that make reading fun for the entire family.
6. Use technology to help build your child's interest in reading. There are several websites where students can read books or articles online. The computer will help with words the student cannot read independently. Libraries also have computers students can use to access those sites. Feel free to ask a librarian or teacher for suggestions.

Additional Resources

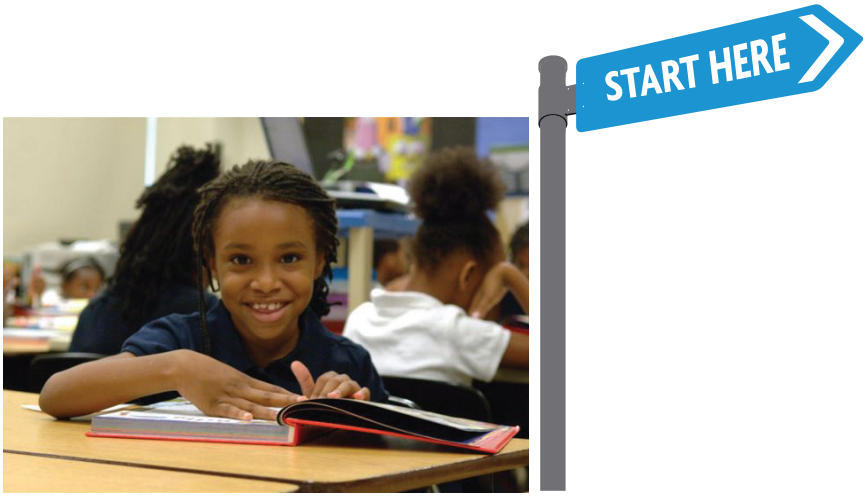
For more information on the Common Core State Standards for English language arts and literacy, go to http://www.corestandards.org/about-the-standards/key-points-in-english-language-arts or http://www.commoncoreworks.org.

Council of the Great City Schools

parent ROADMAP

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD IN GRADE FIVE

MATHEMATICS



America's schools are working to provide higher quality instruction than ever before.

The way we taught students in the past simply does not prepare them for the higher demands of college and careers today and in the future. Your school and schools throughout the country are working to improve teaching and learning to ensure that all children will graduate high school with the skills they need to be successful.

In mathematics, this means three major changes. Teachers will concentrate on teaching a more focused set of major math concepts and skills. This will allow students time to master important ideas and skills in a more organized way throughout the year and from one grade to the next. It will also call for teachers to use rich and challenging math content and to engage students in solving real-world problems in order to inspire greater interest in mathematics.

What your child will be learning in grade five mathematics.

In grade five, students will build their understanding of the place value system by working with decimals up to the hundredths place. Students will also add, subtract, and multiply fractions, including fractions with unlike denominators. They will continue to expand their geometry and measurement skills, learning the concept of volume and measuring the volume of a solid figure. Activities in these areas will include:

- Quickly and accurately multiplying multi-digit whole numbers
- Dividing numbers with up to four digits by two digit numbers
- Using exponents to express powers of 10 (in 10^2, 2 is the exponent)
- Reading, writing, and comparing decimals to the thousandths place
- Adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing decimals to the hundredths place
- Writing and interpreting mathematical expressions using symbols such as parentheses. For example, "*add 8 and 7, then multiply by 2*" can be written as 2×(8+7).
- Adding and subtracting fractions with unlike denominators (bottom numbers) by converting them to fractions with matching denominators
- Multiplying fractions by whole numbers and other fractions
- Dividing fractions by whole numbers and whole numbers by fractions
- Analyzing and determining relationships between numerical patterns
- Measuring volume using multiplication and addition

Partnering with your child's teacher

Don't be afraid to reach out to your child's teacher—you are an important part of your child's education. Ask to see a sample of your child's work or bring a sample with you. Ask the teacher questions like:

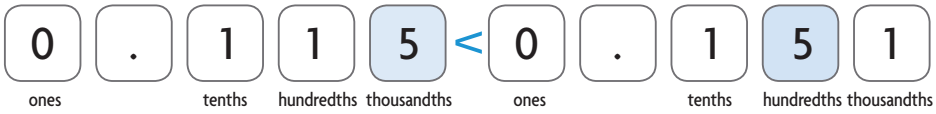
- Is my child at the level where he/she should be at this point of the school year?
- Where is my child excelling?
- What do you think is giving my child the most trouble? How can I help my child improve in this area?
- What can I do to help my child with upcoming work?

Here are just a few examples of how students will develop and use their understanding of place value in grade five.

Grade Four Mathematics	Grade Five Mathematics	Grade Six Mathematics
• Use place value understanding to round multi-digit whole numbers to any place • Recognize that in a multi-digit whole number, a digit in one place represents ten times what it represents in the place to its right • Compare two multi-digit numbers based on meanings of the digits in each place, using the symbols > (more than), = (equal to), and < (less than)	• Use place value understanding to round decimals to any place • Recognize that in a multi-digit number, a digit in one place represents 10 times as much as it represents in the place to its right and 1/10 of what it represents in the place to its left • Read, write, and compare decimals based on the meanings of the digits in the tenths, hundredths, and thousandths place	• Understand that positive and negative numbers are used together to describe quantities having opposite directions or values • Understand a rational number (fraction, decimal, and percent) as a point on the number line • Understand ordering and absolute value of rational numbers

Students use place value understanding to figure out that, based on where the digits are located within the number, 0.115 is less than 0.151.

Students recognize that a 5 in the thousandths place is only one tenth the value of a 5 in the hundredths place.

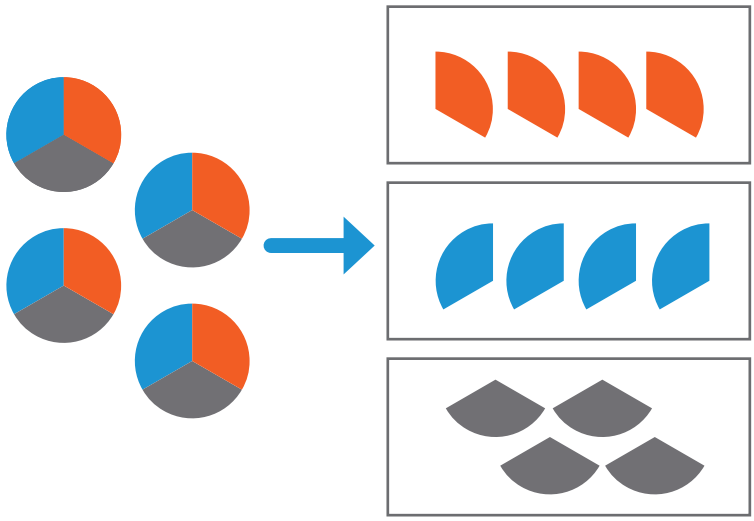


Here are just a few examples of how students will learn about and work with fractions in grade five.

Grade Four Mathematics	Grade Five Mathematics	Grade Six Mathematics
• Break apart a fraction into smaller fractions with the same denominator, or bottom number, in more than one way. For example, $\frac{3}{8}=\frac{1}{8}+\frac{1}{8}+\frac{1}{8}=\frac{2}{8}+\frac{1}{8}$ • Explain why a fraction is equal to another fraction • Add and subtract mixed numbers (whole numbers mixed with fractions, such as $1\frac{1}{5}$) with the same denominators • Multiply a fraction by a whole number	• Interpret a fraction as division of the numerator (the top number) by the denominator (the bottom number) • Add and subtract fractions with different denominators • Multiply a fraction by a whole number or another fraction • Divide fractions by whole numbers and whole numbers by fractions	• Divide fractions by fractions using visual models and equations to show the problem

Understanding how to divide objects into equal shares prepares students for the division of fractions.

Students will use pictures such as this to see that 4÷3 is the same as dividing 4 objects equally among 3 shares, or having 4 thirds (4/3).



Helping your child learn outside of school

1. Use everyday objects to allow your child to explore the concept of fractions. For example, have your child divide a candy bar (or a healthy snack) between three people. Ask, "*How much does each person receive?*" (Each person would receive $\frac{1}{3}$). Suppose there are three candy bars that you plan to share with two friends. Have your child describe the amount that each person will receive.

2. Have your child explain how to write fractions in different ways. For example, what are some different ways to write $\frac{4}{3}$? He or she could answer $4 \div 3$, $1\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{2}{3} + \frac{2}{3}$, $2 \times \frac{2}{3}$, $\frac{8}{6}$, $4 \times \frac{1}{3}$, etc.

3. Ask your child to give you a fraction equal to a decimal. For example, what are two fractions that can be used to represent 0.6? Answers could include $\frac{6}{10}$, $\frac{60}{100}$, $\frac{12}{20}$, or $\frac{3}{5}$.

4. Encourage your child to stick with it whenever a problem seems difficult. This will help your child see that **everyone** can learn math.

5. Praise your child when he or she makes an effort and share in the excitement when he or she solves a problem or understands something for the first time.

Additional Resources

For more information on the Common Core State Standards for mathematics, go to http://www.corestandards.org/about-the-standards/key-points-in-mathematics or http://www.commoncoreworks.org.

For more information on the standards in mathematics related to place value (Number and Operations in Base Ten) or fractions, go to http://commoncoretools.me/category/progressions/.

For more information on helping your child learn mathematics (with activities from pre-school to grade five), go to http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/math/index.html.