

Welcome to FIFTH GRADE!

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts sets expectations, or standards, for what every student will know and be able to do in school. This guide is designed to help you understand those standards and partner with teachers to support your child's learning during fifth grade. If you have questions about this information or your child needs extra help, please talk to your child's teacher.

To talk to your child about school, you can ask:

- ▶ Can you tell me about something you **read** today?
- ▶ How could you use the **math** you learned today?
- ▶ What **scientific ideas** did you talk about today?
- ▶ How did someone help you learn today?

If your child is also learning English, you can ask:

- ▶ How does your teacher help you understand and participate in class?
- ▶ How do you work on your English while you learn academic material?



TO LEARN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AND LITERACY at every grade, your child will:

- ▶ Read various texts, like books, poems, letters, news articles, and Internet pages.
- ▶ Speak and listen in formal and informal ways, like presentations and conversations.
- ▶ Communicate opinions, information, and experiences in writing for various readers.
- ▶ Use knowledge of English grammar and vocabulary in both speech and writing.



TO LEARN MATHEMATICS at every grade, your child will:

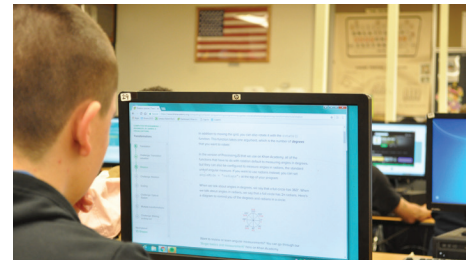
- ▶ Use math to represent and solve real-world problems.
- ▶ Use math to make arguments about why something is true or false.
- ▶ Use tools, like rulers and calculators, to show mathematical relationships.
- ▶ Use patterns and the structures of numbers to think about math.



TO LEARN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY/ENGINEERING at every grade, your child will:

- ▶ Ask scientific questions about the natural world and things humans design.
- ▶ Learn through various experiences, like observations and experiments.
- ▶ Solve problems using the skills and tools of engineers and scientists.
- ▶ Share solutions and communicate explanations of how the world works.

The next three pages focus more specifically on the Massachusetts learning standards for **FIFTH GRADE**.



NEW EXPECTATIONS FOR FIFTH GRADE:



- ▶ Quote directly from a text when speaking or writing about it. For example, write: *When the author says the land is “like a pancake,” she means that it is flat.*
- ▶ Understand the concept of *genre* (type of text). Recognize and write texts in different genres, such as myths, mysteries, and historical fiction.
- ▶ Compare various types of English used in texts: for example, think about why two characters in the same story might speak very differently.
- ▶ Choose verbs carefully when speaking or writing. For example, think about whether to say *I ate it*, *I had eaten it*, *it was eaten*, or *it had been eaten*.

BY THE END OF FIFTH GRADE, STUDENTS CAN:



- ▶ Summarize audio, visual, and multimedia texts such as speeches, Internet pages, and videos.
- ▶ Explain how specific claims and pieces of evidence in a text are connected.
- ▶ Explain how an author’s or narrator’s point of view affects how a story is told.
- ▶ Compare and contrast different versions of the same story or information.
- ▶ Describe different ways in which authors organize information. For example, books on the history of sports might be organized by time period or by sport.
- ▶ Use paragraphs to organize writing clearly and logically.
- ▶ Type at least two pages at a time on a computer.
- ▶ Use commas in sentences like *Yes, thank you* and *It’s Monday, isn’t it?*
- ▶ Combine and break up sentences to make writing clearer or more interesting.
- ▶ Sign their full names in cursive.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:



- ▶ What genre (type) of book do you like best? Why?
- ▶ How do you organize your ideas when you’re writing?
- ▶ What new words or phrases did you use in school today?

TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD’S TEACHER:



- ▶ Topics your child enjoys researching
- ▶ How your child participates in class discussions
- ▶ Online resources that can help your child learn

FOCUS AREAS FOR FIFTH GRADE:

- ▶ Solve word problems using addition and subtraction of fractions. For example, find how many cups of sauce are needed to make three batches of pasta.
- ▶ Solve addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division problems with decimals. For example, divide the cost of a dinner among three people.
- ▶ Understand and solve problems involving volume. For example, find out which of two fish tanks would hold more water.
- ▶ Solve problems using the coordinate grid (graphs). For example, discuss a graph showing how temperature changes over the course of a year.



BY THE END OF FIFTH GRADE, STUDENTS CAN:



- ▶ Use rules (like *add 3*) to make patterns of numbers (like 2, 5, 8, 11...).
- ▶ Write, explain, and compute math expressions: for example, explain that $2 \times (8 + 7)$ is 30.
- ▶ Round decimal numbers to the nearest thousandth: for example, round 5.7936 to 5.794.
- ▶ Fluently (quickly and correctly) multiply multi-digit numbers using the standard algorithm.
- ▶ Divide numbers using various strategies (like the partial quotients method).
- ▶ Multiply fractions by other fractions and by whole numbers: for example, $\frac{2}{3} \times \frac{4}{5}$ or $\frac{4}{5} \times 8$.
- ▶ Divide with whole numbers (like 7) and unit fractions (fractions with 1 on the top): for example, $4 \div \frac{1}{3}$ or $\frac{1}{5} \div 4$.
- ▶ Solve word problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of fractions and whole numbers.
- ▶ Solve multi-step word problems that include converting measurement units (like from grams to kilograms).
- ▶ Classify shapes in a hierarchy: for example, all rectangles are parallelograms, but not all parallelograms are rectangles.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:

- ▶ How much do six boxes of cereal cost?
- ▶ How much of each ingredient will we need if we cut this recipe in half?

TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER:

- ▶ Projects you can do at home to practice solving problems with fractions, decimals, and volume
- ▶ Which strategies for dividing larger numbers work best for your child





FOCUS AREAS FOR FIFTH GRADE:

- ▶ Understand the relationships between the Sun, Earth, Moon, and stars. For example, explain how the Earth orbits the Sun and the Moon orbits the Earth.
- ▶ Understand what a watershed is and how water moves through cycles on Earth: for example, how rain can evaporate into the air or be absorbed into the ground.
- ▶ Understand how people affect the Earth: for example, the effects of chemicals from factories and farms and how people can reduce those effects.
- ▶ Understand how plants make their own food using water, air, and energy from the sun. Explore how the sun's energy helps plants grow and reproduce.



BY THE END OF FIFTH GRADE, STUDENTS CAN:



- ▶ Use models to explain day and night and how the sun, stars, and moon appear in different parts of the sky at different times during a day, month, and year.
- ▶ Graph and compare the amounts of salt water, fresh water, and frozen water (ice) on Earth.
- ▶ Test a simple system for filtering water. Suggest one way to improve it.
- ▶ Explain how different living things produce (make), consume (eat), and decompose (break down and recycle) other things.
- ▶ Explain the changes that happen when liquids, gases, and solids are heated and cooled.
- ▶ Describe properties of various substances: for example, their colors, what happens when they are put in liquid, and how they react to heat or magnets.
- ▶ Explain gravity as a force that pushes objects toward the center of the Earth.
- ▶ Use drawings to show how all the parts work together in a machine or a toy.

QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:

- ▶ What can happen to a drop of rain water after it falls on the ground?
- ▶ Why can you sometimes see the moon during the day?
- ▶ What could we invent to make our chores at home easier?



TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER:

- ▶ How you can help reinforce classroom instruction at home
- ▶ Places in the community that can help your child learn science

