

Parents' Guide to Student Success



This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of 5th grade in English Language Arts and mathematics. This guide is based on West Virginia's College and Career Readiness Standards. If your child is meeting expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for 6th grade.

5TH GRADE

English Language Arts & Literacy

In 5th grade English Language Arts, students build on foundational literacy skills and work toward deeper comprehension, critical thinking, and effective communication. By the end of 5th grade, students are expected to read and comprehend grade-level texts independently, write clearly for different purposes, and communicate effectively. These skills prepare them for more advanced middle school coursework and long-term college and career readiness.

Example classroom activities:

- Learn to read increasingly complex texts independently and analyze them in depth
- Determine theme and summarize stories, dramas, and poems
- Identify main ideas and supporting details in informational texts
- Compare characters, events, or ideas across texts
- Explain relationships (cause/effect, problem/solution) in nonfiction
- Use context clues and word analysis (roots, prefixes, suffixes) to understand vocabulary
- Opinion writing with clear reasons and evidence
- Informative/explanatory writing using facts, definitions, and details
- Narrative writing with clear sequences, dialogue, and descriptive language

Mathematics

In 5th grade, students deepen their understanding of numbers and operations while beginning to think more abstractly about mathematical relationships. Instruction focuses on building strong problem-solving skills and preparing students for middle school math concepts. By the end of 5th grade, students are expected to confidently work with fractions and decimals, solve multi-step problems, and explain their thinking clearly. These skills build a strong foundation for pre-algebra and more advanced mathematical concepts in later grades.

Example classroom activities:

- Describe mathematical patterns
- Extend the understanding of place value to include decimals
- Multiply and divide multi-digit numbers
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions
- Graph points on a coordinate grid
- Find the volume of rectangular prisms
- Convert like measurement units