

Parent Guide

Fifth Grade

Reading Public Schools
Reading, MA 01867

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This guide provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of fifth grade in Mathematics and English Language Arts. It focuses on the key skills your child will learn in these subjects, which will build a strong foundation for success in the other subjects he or she studies throughout the school year. This guide is based on the new Massachusetts State Frameworks. These K–12 standards are informed by the highest state standards from across the country. If your child is meeting the expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for sixth grade.

A sample of what your child will be working on in FIFTH GRADE:

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 $2 \times (8 + 7)$.
- 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

English Language Arts:

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

Tips for Fifth Grade Families to Support Students 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.



Mathematics:

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. Support daily math facts practice and track your child's progress. Fifth graders who recall math facts (all operations) automatically and fluently have much greater success with fifth grade standards.
 5. Explore some of the following websites with your child for a fun way to practice and support current classroom lessons:
 - www.eduplace.com/kids/mw test prep questions, manipulatives, etc.
 - www.mathplayground.com math videos, games, logic puzzles, etc.
 - www.mrnussbaum.com lots of math games
 - www.coolmath4kids.com practice, tutorials, games, etc.
 - www.aplusmath.com/flashcards flashcards, math games
 - www.gamequarium.com activities for math, reading, etc.
- There are **Khan Academy** tutorials with a separate heading for **Math in Focus**/Singapore Math. (Type in Singapore Math in the search bar.) <http://www.khanacademy.org/>
6. Parents and students will soon be able to access **Math in Focus** materials from home. For now, you can explore a great resource, the Juneau School District's blog. It has sections that include: FAQs, Parent Info, Parent Resources, Math Games, Practice, and Enrichment Activities. <http://jsdmathisfun.blogspot.com/>
 7. Encourage your child to stick with it whenever a problem seems difficult. This will help your child see that everyone can learn math.
 8. 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.
 9. 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>.
 10. 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/>.
 11. 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>

English Language Arts:

1. Provide time and space for your child to read independently. This time should be free from distractions such as television. The grade level expectation for at-home reading is 30 minutes daily.

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. The Reading Public Library is a town treasure. Be sure your child has a library card. The RPL website includes lists of ebooks and audiobooks, apps, cool websites, and a calendar of ongoing events.

<http://www.readingpl.org/kids/>

6. Use technology to help build your child's interest in reading.

- www.scholastic.com/resources/article/leveled-reading/ parent guide for leveled reading
- <http://www.salemstate.edu/academics/schools/3698.php> MA Children's Book Award master list & level guide
- <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources> book lists, guides, resources
- www.readingrockets.org/audience/parents/ lots of parent resources, articles, videos
- <http://www.readwritethink.org/parent-afterschool-resources/> ELA projects, activities, games, tips
- <http://www.guysread.com/> booklists, activities, & other "stuff for guys"

7. Explore the Anchorage School District's Elementary Literacy Support page. It's a wonderful resource with lots of articles, book lists, and websites. http://www.asdk12.org/depts/els/parent_resources.asp

8. Use websites like Common Sense Media to make sure the content of the books that your child has selected is age appropriate. <http://www.commonsensemedia.org/book-reviews>

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

This document was created using the following sources:

- http://www.cgcs.org/cms/lib/DC00001581/Centricity/Domain/36/ParentGuide_Math_5.pdf
Council of the Great City Schools Parent Roadmaps to the Common Core Standards
- http://www.cgcs.org/cms/lib/DC00001581/Centricity/Domain/36/ParentGuide_ELA_5_v1r5_newfont.pdf
CGCS Parent Roadmaps to the Common Core Standards
- http://pta.org/files/2012_NPTA_PG-5thGrade.pdf **National PTA Curriculum Guide**