

# Fourth Grade Elementary Parents' Guide to Student Success

This guide is based on the Florida State Standards. If your child meets the expectations as outlined in this guide, he/she will be well prepared for success in fifth grade.

## MATH:

What Your Child Will be Working on:

- Solving multi step word problems using the four operations; including problems with remainders, time, money as well as problems with measurements and distances
- Multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers in simple cases (e.g., multiplying  $1,638 \times 7$  or  $24 \times 17$ , and dividing 6,966 by 6)
- Understanding and applying equivalent fractions (e.g., recognizing that  $\frac{1}{4}$  is less than  $\frac{3}{8}$  because  $\frac{2}{8}$  is less than  $\frac{3}{8}$ )
- Adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions in simple cases (such as  $2\frac{3}{4} - 1\frac{1}{4}$  or  $3 \times \frac{5}{8}$ ), and solving related word problems
- Understanding simple decimals in terms of fraction (e.g., rewriting 0.62 as  $\frac{62}{100}$ )
- Measuring angles / finding unknown angles in a diagram
- Investigating factors and multiples

### HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME:

- Create a quiet place and determine a regular time for your child to study every day.
- Sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 - 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.

Activities to do with your child to support learning at home:

- Ask your child to compare numbers using phrases like "times as much." For example, if the family cat weighs 8 lbs. and the family dog weighs 56 lbs., how many times as much does the dog weigh?
- Ask your child to help you compare fractional amounts for example, if one recipe calls for  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a cup of oil, but another recipe calls for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a cup of oil, which recipe calls for more oil?

For more information, the full standards are available at:

<http://www.fldoe.org/pdf/mathfs.pdf>

## SCIENCE:

What Your Child Will be Working on:

### Life Science

- Reproduction in flowering plants: pollination, fertilization, seed production, seed dispersal, germination
- Plants and animals: inherited characteristics and characteristics affected by the environment
- Animal behavior: inherited and/or learned
- Life cycles of Florida plants and animals; metamorphosis
- Food chains- transfer of energy, consumers, producers, omnivore, herbivore, carnivore
- Human, plant and animal impact on the environment

### Physical Science

- Properties and uses of water as a solid, liquid and gas
- Changes in materials: decaying, burning, rusting, cooking
- Basic forms of energy: light, heat, **sound** and electrical
- Sources of energy: water and air
- Energy- ability to cause motion or create change
- Sound Energy – Pitch
- Conduction: common materials - Heat Flow from cold to hot
- Objects in motion – changes in position and direction, how to determine the speed of an object

### Earth Science

- Lunar cycle- appearance of the moon over a month's time
- Earth's revolution around the sun & daily rotation
- Movement relationship between moon, Sun, Earth
- Rocks and how they are formed: igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic
- Physical properties of minerals: hardness, color, luster, cleavage, and streak color
- Weathering and Erosion-breaking down of rock
- Renewable and nonrenewable resources
- Florida resources (water, phosphate, oil, limestone, silicon, wind, and solar energy).

### HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME:

- Go on nature walks making observations of your surroundings (plants, animals, soil, rocks)
- Bird watching - using birding guides available on line
- Star gazing – observing stars, star patterns, moon and planets
- Check out science related books from your local library
- View science related websites, webcams and videos

## LANGUAGE

## ARTS:

What Your Child Will be Working on:

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
- Writing research or opinion papers over extended periods of time

### HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME:

- Provide time and space for your child to read and write independently. Allow your child to write personal narratives, fiction, poetry, or anything that is of interest to him or her.
- 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.
- Be sure your child has a library card.
- Use technology to help build your child's interest in reading.
- Visit websites of your child's favorite writers.

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## ART:

### What Your Child Will Be Working On:

- Create drawings that use shading, gesture and contour
- Create paintings using color schemes and visual texture
- Create sculptures using assemblage techniques
- Create clay forms that refine clay building techniques and surface decoration
- Create prints by experimenting with color/paper and modifying printed image
- Create artwork using mixed media and/or fiber techniques
- Create artworks using digital media and processes
- Describe, discuss, and interpret artworks using accurate art vocabulary
- Compare and contrast artworks from various cultures and/or across time
- Use innovative ideas and creative solutions to solve artistic problems
- Discuss how artists and designers have made an impact on everyday life
- Create artworks focused on the use of the elements and principles while using various media
- Identify connections between visual art and other content areas

### HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME:

- Set up an "art area" with a table and art supplies such as pencils, computer or drawing paper, construction paper, scissors, glue, tape, colored pencils, washable markers and paints, brushes, and air-dry clay
- Borrow art books from the school or local library
- Go online with your child to learn about and make art using interactive art websites (*Link to several sites: <http://www.symbaloo.com/mix/digitalartmaking> )*
- Visit an art museum, art center or local gallery (*More info: <http://www.artstampabay.com/> )*

## MUSIC:

### What Your Child Will Be Working On:

- Identify, aurally and visually, selected instruments of the orchestra
- Describe, using music vocabulary, what is heard in a specific musical work
- Describe and demonstrate appropriate audience behavior in various settings
- Sing rounds and ostinati with and without accompaniment using proper singing technique and maintaining a tonal center
- Sing melodic patterns on pitch containing Do, Re, Mi, Fa, So, La, Ti, Do using solfege
- Play rounds and ostinati by ear, on classroom instruments, using proper instrumental technique
- Read rhythmic/melodic phrases with their corresponding rests, and Do, Re, Mi, So, La in 2/4, 3/4, and 4/4
- Improvise 4 measure answers to 4 measure questions
- Notate 2/4 measure rhythmic/melodic phrases using their corresponding rests, and Do, Re, Mi, So, La in 2/4 and 4/4
- Create a 2/4 measure melodic ostinato, to accompany songs or poems
- Apply expressive elements to a piece of music and explain choices
- Classify music in at least 3 genres and support answer (e.g., orchestra, jazz, folk)
- Identify connections between music and other subjects
- Create a musical interpretation of a song by varying dynamics, timbre and/or tempo

### HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME:

- Listen to music with your child and discuss their likes and dislikes
- Expose your child to live musical concerts
- Encourage and provide private vocal or instrumental instruction as a supplement to school musical ensembles
- Support school and community vocal and instrumental ensembles
- Initiate and participate in family singing!

## CIVICS

### What Your Child Will Be Working On:

The goal of Social Studies Civics instruction is to prepare students to be knowledgeable, informed, and active citizens in their community. In grade four; students use their understanding of social concepts and skills to explore Florida's government and political system. Students will be engaged in conversations and learning opportunities to help them make sense of our state government.

#### Activities in these areas may include:

- Describing how Florida's constitution protects the rights of citizens and provides for the structure, function, and purposes of state government
- Discuss public issues in Florida that impact the daily lives of its citizens
- Identify ways citizens work together to influence government and help solve community and state problems
- Explain the importance of public service, voting, and volunteerism
- Identify the three branches (Legislative, Judicial, Executive) of government in Florida and the powers of each
- Distinguish between state (governor, state representative, senator) and local government (mayor, city commissioner)

### HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME:

- Read a book with your child about Florida
- Watch the news during a local or state election and discuss the process and importance
- Find ways to volunteer in your local or state community
- Discuss symbols that represent Florida
- Discuss public issues specific to Florida and possible solutions (i.e. Everglades)