

A Guide to Standards-Based Instruction for Parents & Guardians



This guide provides a family-friendly overview of what your child will learn by the end of 4th grade in mathematics and English language arts/literacy, in an easy-to-understand format.

**4th
GRADE**

Why Are Academic Standards Important?

Academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students are prepared for success after high school. The standards provide an important first step — establish a clear, consistent roadmap for what every student should know and be able to do in Math and English language arts from Kindergarten through 12th grade. Having clearly defined goals helps families and teachers work together to ensure that students succeed. They also will help your child develop critical thinking skills that will prepare them for college and careers.

English Language Arts & Literacy

Key Ideas & Details	Craft & Structure	Integration of Knowledge & Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students will be able to explain a story by referring to details and examples in the text.</i>• <i>Students will be able to use specific details in fiction text to describe a character, setting or event in the story.</i>• <i>Students will be able to explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, or technical text.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students will be able to figure out the meanings of words and phrases an author uses.</i>• <i>Students will be able to write or talk about the differences between poems, plays and fictional stories.</i>• <i>Students will be able to compare and contrast the information given in a firsthand account, and secondhand account of the same event or topic.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students will be able to understand and use information from informational text features (charts, graphs, etc.) to help them explain their understanding.</i>• <i>Students will be able to compare and contrast how authors from different cultures write about similar themes (e.g., good vs. evil) in stories, myths and traditional literature.</i>

Talking to your child's teacher

When talking with your child's teacher, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 4th grade, these include:

- ★ Comprehending a range of grade-level stories, poems, and informational texts such as biographies, articles, or guidebooks about history, science, or the arts
- ★ Building understanding of relationships between words and nuances in word meanings—synonyms, antonyms, idioms—and using this knowledge to convey ideas precisely

Mathematics

Operations & Algebraic Thinking	Number & Operations in Base Ten	Number & Operations - Fractions	Measurement & Data
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students will understand that multiplication equations can be seen as comparisons of groups</i>• <i>Students can multiply or divide to solve word problems by using drawings or writing equations.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students can 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.</i>• <i>Students can round larger whole numbers to any place.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Student can understand a fraction a/b, with $a > 1$, as a sum of fractions $1/b$.</i>• <i>Students can decompose a fraction into a sum of fractions with the same denominator.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Students can use what they know about area and perimeter to solve real world problems involving rectangles.</i>• <i>Students can show that they know the relative size of measurement units within one system of units</i>

Geometry

- *Students can identify two-dimensional figures and recognize and identify right triangles.*
- *Students can identify and draw points, lines, line segments, rays, angles and perpendicular & parallel lines.*

When you talk to the teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 4th grade, these include:

- ★ **Doing arithmetic and solving word problems with multi-digit numbers**
- ★ **Doing arithmetic and solving word problems with fractions**

Talking to your child's teacher

Helping Your Child at Home

Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time every day for your child to 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:

English Language Arts & Literacy

- Urge your child to use logical arguments to defend his or her opinion. If your child wants a raise in allowance, ask him or her to research commonsense allowance systems and, based on that research, explain reasons why, supported by facts and details.
- Talk about the news together. Pick one story in the news, read it together, and discuss with your child what it means.

Mathematics

- 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 $\frac{3}{8}$ of a cup of oil, but another recipe calls for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cup of oil, which recipe calls for more oil? (In 5th grade, your child will learn ways to determine just how much more oil.)