



Hello Parents,
Welcome to

First Grade!

Your student is already making
strides toward high school graduation

Parents have common questions about achievement and instruction
as students move up each grade. This guide will point you to answers
as you help your student reach graduation!

Learn more at www.skgradguide.com

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WHAT IS MY CHILD LEARNING?

State standards describe what Oregon **students should know and be able to do by the end of the school year.**

Following are a few examples of state standards for FIRST GRADE students:

English Language Arts

(includes reading, writing, language, speaking and listening)

- Identify the main topic, retell using details, and understand the central message in stories.
- Write pieces that include a topic and give details or reasons to support it.
- Use a variety of strategies to determine the meaning of words.

Math

- Develop an understanding of using addition and subtraction to solve a variety of problems.
- Extend the counting sequence, and begin to understand place value (ones and tens).
- Measure and compare lengths to solve problems.

Science

- Show that vibrating materials can make sound, and that sound can make materials vibrate.
- Use observations of the sun, moon and stars to describe patterns.
- Create a solution to a human problem that copies a strategy that plants or animals use.

Social Sciences

- Identify the United States and Oregon flags, and other symbols.
- Give examples of local natural resources and describe how people use them.
- Compare the ways people lived in the community in the past with the way they live in the present.

There are also standards for physical education, health education, art, English language acquisition (for English language learners) and others.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GRADUATE?

It may seem strange to think about high school graduation when your student is in elementary school. But, it's important to set the goal early.

Elementary school is the time when students form a foundation of skills and knowledge they will build on year after year.

The best way to set your student up to reach graduation is to make sure he or she is meeting standards every year. NOW is the time to start.

Learn more about high school graduation requirements at www.skgradguide.com.



HOW IS MY CHILD DOING?



Three ways to know:

1 Progress reports

Parents of elementary students receive three progress reports (report cards) each year.

Salem-Keizer's elementary schools use a **proficiency grading** system, which means grades reflect the student's progress toward mastering a standard.

Grades are reported on a scale of one to four. A score of three means the student meets grade level standards, or is proficient.

Please see our video at www.skgradguide.com/doing/grades-elementary for a description of how proficiency grading works.

2 Ongoing assessment

In kindergarten through second grade, teachers **continually evaluate** student work to gauge progress toward standards. This is called "ongoing assessment."

Older students (grades 3–8 and grade 11) take annual state tests in reading, writing, math and science. These tests provide the Oregon Department of Education with information on how well schools are helping students reach state standards.

Teachers in these higher grades use state test information, ongoing assessment, and other measures to help them gauge student learning. In future grades, parents can also use state test scores as one way to know how their students are doing.

3 Talk with the teacher

A conversation with the teacher is a great way to find out about student progress. Email is the fastest way to get in touch with teachers. Teachers may also be available for phone conversations after school.

Remember - it's important to **attend parent-teacher conferences!** Please take advantage of this opportunity to meet with teachers in person.

Lastly, remember that parents are always welcome to visit the school, and to become a volunteer.



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HOW CAN I HELP AT HOME?

As a parent or guardian of a student, **you are the most influential person in your child's future success.**

Here are a few things you can do to help set your student up for success.

- Demonstrate a positive attitude about school. Your children will model your attitude.
- Make sure your child attends school every day, unless they are sick.
- Know about the academic concepts your child is learning (see page 2).
- Have a comfortable place set up for homework and minimize distractions (turn off the TV and video games). Make sure there are enough supplies, like paper and pencils.
- Read non-fiction books with your student, and talk about what's happening in the books.
- Encourage writing at home. Write together, and include details.
- Talk with your student about different jobs people do, and what skills are needed.
- Ask your child to solve simple math problems of everyday life, like figuring correct change.
- Check your child's backpack for homework and messages sent home from school every day.
- Check out the free resources on your school's website under library-media.
- Give your child opportunities to use a computer keyboard.
- If you don't have a computer or access to the Internet at home, take advantage of free technology in the school library and at public libraries.

Find tips and skill-building exercises at
www.skgradguide.com

2017-18 DATES TO REMEMBER (Elementary)

First day of school, grades 1-5	Sept. 6
First day of school, kindergarten	Sept. 13
Statewide inservice day	Oct. 13*
Grading day	Nov. 3*
Veteran's Day holiday	Nov. 10*
All day conferences	Nov. 20*, 21*
No school	Nov. 22*
Thanksgiving holiday	Nov. 23*, 24*
Winter Break	Dec. 18*-29*
New Year's Day holiday	Jan. 1*
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday	Jan. 15*
Staff development day	Jan. 26*
Presidents Day holiday	Feb. 19*
Grading day	Mar. 9*
All day conferences	Mar. 22*
No school	Mar. 23*
Spring Break	Mar. 26*-30*
Staff development day	Apr. 27*
Memorial Day holiday	May 28*
Last day of school (subject to change if inclement weather or other closure)	June 13

*No school for all elementary grades.

Calendars may change. Confirm closure dates with your school.



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