



Hello Parents,
Welcome to

Fourth Grade!

Your student is 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 FOURTH GRADE students:

English Language Arts

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

- Determine theme, explain how key ideas support theme. Summarize texts.
- Write pieces that are focused, sequenced and organized. Use transitional words, quotations, dialogue, descriptions, etc., and provide a conclusion.
- Use definitions, examples, or restatements, as well as root words, prefixes and suffixes, to determine meaning of words and phrases.

Math

- Use efficient methods to solve problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.
- Use place value understanding to perform multi-digit calculations.
- Add and subtract fractions, multiply fractions by whole numbers, and compare decimal numbers to the hundredths place.

Science

- Create a model that describes the properties of waves.
- Study how energy is harvested and used, and how its use affects the environment.
- Explain how the physical properties of plants and animals help them survive and grow.

Social Sciences

- Use basic information on maps and other geographic tools to locate and identify physical and human features of the community.
- Give examples of changes in Oregon's agricultural, industrial, political and business development over time.
- Identify Native American Indian groups that lived in Oregon prior to contact with Europeans.

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 State tests

Every year, Oregon students in grades 3–8 and grade 11 take state tests in reading, writing, math and science. The tests measure students' knowledge of state standards, and give the Oregon Department of Education feedback about how schools are doing.

The state test for English language arts and math is called the Smarter Balanced Assessment. Students take the test in the spring, and the results are sent home around the end summer.

The Smarter Balanced Assessment was first used in our district in 2015, so it is still relatively new. Students will benefit from **encouragement and practice** to help them adjust to the new style of test.

After students have had more experience with the test, parents may choose to look at state test results as one way to gauge their student's progress toward mastering grade-level standards.

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.



www.skgradguide.com

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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