GRADE 1

Denver Public Schools has embraced the Colorado Academic Standards to ensure students are equipped for success in the 21st Century. These parent guides provide an overview of what your child will be learning in language arts, math, science and social studies, based on the academic standards, in each grade. They also describe ways you can help at home and include additional helpful resources.
Language Arts

Using new words, understanding different kinds of texts

- Read stories and demonstrate understanding of the moral or lesson of the story.
- Ask and answer questions about a story, including characters, settings and major events.
- Compare and contrast the experiences of different characters.
- Identify the reasons an author gives to support a point.
- Explain differences between texts that tell stories and texts that provide information.
- Learn and use new words.
- Participate in class discussions by listening, responding to what others are saying and asking questions.
- Describe people, places, things and events, expressing feelings and ideas clearly.
- Learn basic rules of spoken and written English.
- Work with others to gather facts and information about a topic.
- Write to describe an event, provide information on a topic or share an opinion.
- Write about a topic, supplying some facts and providing some sense of a beginning and ending.

Mathematics

Counting to 120, comparing two-digit numbers, understanding math symbols

- Quickly and accurately add numbers that total 10 or less and subtract from numbers through 10 (such as 2+5, 7–5).
- Solve addition and subtraction word problems in situations of adding to, taking from, putting together, taking apart and comparing. For example, a taking from situation would be “Five apples were on the table. I ate some apples. Then there were three apples left. How many apples did I eat?”
- Understand what the different digits mean in two-digit numbers (place value).
- Compare two-digit numbers using the symbols > (more than), = (equal to) and < (less than).
- Understand the meaning of the equal sign (=) and determine if statements involving addition and subtraction are true or false (for example, which of the following statements are true? 3+3=6, 4+1=5+2).
- Add one-digit and two-digit numbers together.
- Count to 120 starting at any number less than 120.
- Tell and write time in hours and half-hours.
- Measure the lengths of objects using a shorter object as a unit of length.
- Organize objects into categories and compare the number of objects in different categories.
- Divide circles and rectangles into halves and quarters.
EXAMPLES OF WHAT YOUR CHILD WILL BE LEARNING IN GRADE 1

Science

Properties of solids and liquids, changes in weather

Physical Science (Investigating properties)
- Understand that solids and liquids have unique properties that distinguish them.
- Learn that the properties of solids and liquids help us understand how to use matter. For example, we cannot build a bridge out of tissue because it is not strong enough.

Life Science (Animals and their needs)
- Learn that offspring have properties or characteristics that are similar to, but not exactly like, their parents’ characteristics (for example, a parent’s eye color can differ from their child’s).
- Learn that an organism is a living thing that has physical characteristics to help it survive.

Earth Systems Science (Investigating weather)
- Understand that weather and the changing seasons impact the environment and organisms such as humans, plants and other animals.
- Consider how living things adjust to changes in weather (such as bears hibernating or humans wearing winter coats).

Social Studies

Understanding chronology, calendars and cultural symbols

- Understand the concepts of patterns and chronological order.
- Arrange life events in chronological order.
- Identify the components of a calendar, including the days of the week, months and notable events.
- Use words related to time, sequence and change.
- Understand family and cultural events in the United States in the past.
- Identify famous Americans who have shown courageous leadership.
- Identify and explain the meaning of national symbols such as the American flag, bald eagle, Statue of Liberty and the White House.
- Understand that individuals create and memorize addresses to help locate places. For example, knowing an address is necessary for an ambulance to find it or for an individual to receive mail.
- Learn that geographic tools such as maps and globes represent places.
- Distinguish between land and water on a map or globe.
- Learn how people in different groups and communities interact with each other and with the environment.
- Identify how community activities differ due to physical and cultural characteristics (such as skiing in the mountains).
- Learn that people work at different types of jobs and in different types of organizations to produce goods and services and receive an income.
You Play A Key Role

You do not have to be an expert to help your child with homework. The Colorado Academic Standards are focused on critical thinking. So asking your child these three simple questions can help develop deeper understanding:

• Ask “How do you know that?” to prompt your child to think critically about reaching an answer.
• Ask “Can you prove it?” to encourage your child to defend a solution or explain an alternate route.
• Ask “Can you use this in a real-world situation?” to spark thinking about using what’s learned in everyday life.

Language arts
- Encourage your child to read to you books such as Little Bear by Else Holmelund Minarik. Help your child sound out difficult words.
- Pick a “word of the day” each day starting with a different letter. Have your child write the word and look for other things beginning with the same letter.
- Provide time and space for your child to read without distractions such as TV.
- Ask your child what topics, events or activities he or she likes. Then look for books, magazines and other materials about those topics that will inspire your child to read.
- It is helpful when your child sees other people reading at home. You could share what you have read.
- Start a family book club. Let different members of the family pick the book.
- Be sure your child has a library card.

Math
- Look for “word problems” in real life. For example, if you open a new carton of a dozen eggs and you use four eggs to cook dinner, close the carton and ask your child how many eggs are left.
- Play the “I’m thinking of a number” game. For example, “I’m thinking of a number that makes 11 when added to 8. What is it?”
- Encourage your child to read and write numbers in different ways. For example, what are some ways that you can make the number 15? 15 can be 10+5, 7+8, 20-5 or 5+5+5.
- Have your child create story problems to represent addition, subtraction and comparisons. For example, “I have seven pennies. My brother has five pennies. How many pennies does he need to have the same number as I have? He needs two more pennies.”
- Encourage your child to stick with it whenever a problem seems difficult. This will help your child see that everyone can learn math.

Want to learn more?

Resources: The DPS standards website provides additional information and parent resources on the academic standards and how you can help at home. Visit standards.dpsk12.org to find the following resources:

DPS guides:
• Parent guides for all grade levels.
• Standards and students with special needs.
• Technology expectations by grade level.

These guides were developed using the following outside resources (also available on the DPS standards site):
• Colorado Department of Education grade-level expectations for all 10 Colorado Academic Standards.
• National PTA parent success guides, by grade level, in language arts and math (English and Spanish).
• Council of Great City Schools parent roadmaps, by grade level, in language arts and math (English and Spanish).

Questions:
For questions, please email standards@dpsk12.org.