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

**Reading non-fiction texts; writing stories with clear beginning, middle and end**

- Read stories, including fables and folktales from different cultures, and identify the lesson or moral of the story.
- Read texts about history, social studies or science and identify the main idea.
- Answer who, what, where, when, why and how questions about stories and books.
- Use features in text, such as captions, bold print and indexes, to locate key facts or information efficiently.
- Take part in conversations by listening to the remarks of others, and asking and answering questions to gather additional information or deepen understanding of the topic.
- Participate in shared research projects (for example, read books on a single topic to produce a report).
- Write stories that include a short sequence of events and a clear beginning, middle and end.
- Write an opinion piece on books using details and examples to support a position.
- Produce, expand and rearrange sentences (for example, “The boy watched the movie”; “The little boy watched the movie”; “The action movie was watched by the little boy”).
- Determine the meaning of the new word formed when a known prefix or suffix is added to a known word (such as happy/unhappy; pain/painless).

Mathematics

**Adding and subtracting two- and three-digit numbers, understanding place value**

- Solve one- or two-step word problems by adding or subtracting within 100 (for example, a one-step word problem would be “Lucy has 23 fewer apples than Julie. Julie has 47 apples. How many apples does Lucy have?”)
- Quickly and accurately add or subtract with a sum of 20 or less (such as 11+8 or 16-9) and know all sums of one-digit numbers from memory by the end of the year.
- Understand what the digits mean in three-digit numbers (place value). The digits in a three-digit number represent hundreds, tens and ones (for example, 324 represents three hundreds, two tens and four ones).
- Use understanding of place value to add and subtract three-digit numbers (such as 811-367) and add and subtract two-digit numbers quickly and accurately (such as 77-28).
- Solve addition and subtraction word problems involving length (such as “The pen is 2 cm longer than the pencil. If the pencil is 7 cm long, how long is the pen?”).
- Build, draw and analyze 2-D and 3-D shapes to develop foundations for area, volume and geometry in later grades.
- Solve addition, subtraction and comparison word problems using information presented on a bar graph.
Science

Understanding energy comes in many forms, breaking down Earth’s materials

Physical Science (Designing sound systems)
- Understand energy comes in many forms such as light, heat, sound, magnetic, chemical and electrical.

Life Science (Investigating plants)
- Understand that living things depend on non-living things in their habitat to satisfy their needs (such as plants depending on air).
- Understand the basic needs of plants and animals and how those needs differ (such as fish needing to live in water).
- Learn that plants and animals have different structures or behaviors that serve different functions (such as the leaf of a plant).

Earth Systems Science (Investigating Earth’s materials)
- Learn that Earth’s materials – soil, sand, rocks and oil – can be broken down and combined into different materials, naturally and by people.

Social Studies

Understanding how people shape communities, resolving conflicts

- Explain the past through oral or written firsthand accounts of history.
- Create timelines to understand the development of important community traditions and events.
- Give examples of people, events and developments that brought important changes to the community.
- Use map keys, legends, symbols, intermediate directions and a compass to derive information from various maps.
- Identify and locate cultural, human, political and natural features using map keys and legends.
- Explain scarcity and give examples of choices people make when resources are scarce.
- Identify goods and services and recognize examples of each.
- Identify components of financial decision-making including gathering, evaluating and prioritizing information based on a financial goal, and predicting the possible outcome of a decision.
- Differentiate between a long-term and a short-term financial goal.
- Discuss the rights and responsibilities of citizens.
- List the ways people express their ideas respectfully.
- Demonstrate skills to resolve conflicts or differences.
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

- Read at home every day and assist your child by reading every other paragraph. To find recommendations for your child to read, visit www.corestandards.org/assets/Appendix_B.pdf and search by grade level.
- Ask your child what topics, events or activities he or she likes. Then look for books, magazines or other materials about those topics to motivate your child to read.
- It is also 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.
- Have your child write a thank you note or letter to a family member or friends.

Math

- Look for “word problems” in real life. For example, when saving for a purchase, compare the cost of the item to the amount of money you have. Then ask your child to determine how much more money he or she needs to buy the item.
- Additional math games: “I’m thinking of a number. It has 5 tens, 3 hundreds and 4 ones. What is the number?” Or, using a deck of cards, deal two cards and ask your child to add the two numbers. You can also identify a target number and ask your child to either add or subtract to obtain that target number (use a target of 20 or less).
- Play “draw the shape.” Ask your child to draw a hexagon with one side longer than the others or ask your child to shade in a quarter of a rectangle.
- Have your child explain the relationship between different numbers without counting. For example, 147 is 47 more than 100 and three less than 150.
- 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.