

Tips to Support Learning at Home

Language Arts Tips

- Have your child select 4 or 5 magazine pictures, and put them together with a written story. Have him tell the story to the family. Then have him rearrange the pictures, and do the same process.
- Encourage keeping a journal or a diary. Have your child write in it regularly.
- Whenever you fill out a form, have your child watch and learn the importance of printing, answering correctly and neatly.
- If your child asks you to explain a difficult word, ask him if he can figure it out by the meaning of the sentence or the paragraph as a whole. If he can't, use a dictionary together.
- At your next visit to the library, point out the major sectors of the library and where certain books can be found. Practice finding a book by using the library's catalogue system.
- Help your child know the steps of the writing process from pre-writing, outlining, organizing material, writing, editing, and re-editing.
- Help your child check out from the library books about his hobby or interests. Be on the look out for "new" or different books on these subjects. Go to used book sales. Ask your child about which book gave him the most information. What new idea did he get?
- Help your child begin to explore literature. Ask her teacher for home reading recommendations.
- Have a Family Reading Night each week. Turn off the TV. Everyone reads their favorite things. Strive for several Family Reading Nights each week.
- Form a Family Book Club. Read the same book separately with your child. Later, discuss and review the book together. What was the purpose of the book? Did it have a plot, a point of view, or theme? What did you like or dislike about it? How would you have written the ending?
- Have your child read a various types of written materials including recipe directions, game instructions, catalogs, children's magazines.

Math Tips

- Get some city maps, and bus schedules. Let your child plan a local trip for friends or family. Have him figure out the time required, distances between places, costs, best time of the week to make the trip.
- Buy a simple outdoor thermometer or have your child search the newspaper/internet for daily temperatures. Create a graph showing weekly trends. Have your child check it several times a day and record the readings. Have him compare morning, afternoon, and evening temperatures.
- Have your child flatten tin cans, food boxes, or other 3-dimensional shapes for recycling. What shapes are they after they get flattened?
- Take a large cardboard box and unfold it completely without cutting it, so it lies flat. Ask your child to imagine what the box originally looked like. Have him draw a picture of his idea. Then put it together. Have him measure the length, height, and depth of the box.
- Talk about time in various ways: seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, months, years, decades, centuries. Use the calendar often and refer to it with your child. Plan something special with your child in the future. How many months until then? How many weeks? How many days?
- Take a trip to the beach or the woods. How many different shapes do you see? Have your child draw them in a journal. How many acorns will fit in your hand? Compare the weight of leaves to twigs?
- Help your child learn decimals by discussing money. "One dollar and 10 cents is written this way: \$1.10." Show her gas station, grocery store, and billboard signs that have decimals.
- Take a favorite family food recipe and make it with your child. Only this time double the recipe (or if that's not possible, cut it in half). The recipe calls for $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of milk, what is that doubled? The recipe calls for $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon of salt, what is one-half of that?
- Have your child make a survey of the neighborhood. How many buildings? How many 2-story houses? How many businesses? How many stop signs, lights, speed bumps? How many yards with flowers?

West Contra Costa Unified School District

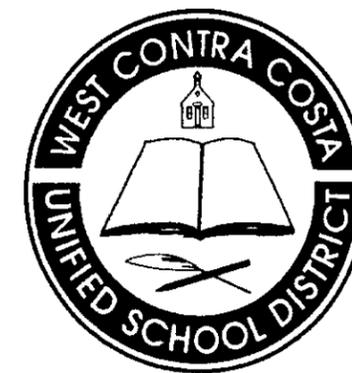
Essential "I Can" Student Standards

Fourth Grade

Dear Parents/Guardians,

This brochure is designed to introduce families, students and caregivers to the key standards in Reading Language Arts and Mathematics. The standards are written to be parent friendly. Tips are provided on the back of the brochure to help you support your child's learning at home. The school district recognizes that while our curriculum is consistent, our students develop at their own pace. Therefore, students are assessed several times throughout the school year to monitor progress in meeting the essential grade-level standards.

The school district is committed to working with families to assure student mastery of these important standards.



For more information contact:
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Area	READING LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS	
READING-Word Analysis, Fluency, and Vocabulary Development—Comprehension—Literacy Respond and Analysis	I can use what I know about a word's origin, synonyms, antonyms, and idioms to help me read and understand.	1.2
	I can use what I know about the root of a word to help me break it down and understand what the word means.	1.3
	I know that many words have more than one meaning, and I can figure out a particular meaning through context.	1.6
	I can make and confirm predictions while I am reading by using what I already know and clues that I find in the text.	2.3
	I can evaluate new information and ideas by comparing them with information and ideas that are already known.	2.4
	I can compare and contrast information on a topic after reading several sources of information.	2.5
	I can determine cause and effect in a text and also tell the difference between fact and opinion.	2.6
	I can follow written instructions with multiple steps.	2.7
	I know what figurative language is and can find it things that I read. <i>Examples: simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification.</i>	3.5
	WRITING - Writing Strategies—Written and Oral Conventions	I can select a focus, a structure, and a point of view for my writing based on purpose and audience.
I can write multiple-paragraph compositions with proper form and indentation. <i>Introduction with a central theme. Supporting paragraphs with details, facts, and explanations. Conclusion with summary of main points.</i>		1.2
I can edit and revise drafts of my writing to improve it. <i>Examples: add, delete, move, or combine information</i>		1.10
I use both simple and compound sentences in my writing and speaking.		1.1
I can identify and use regular and irregular verbs, adverbs, prepositions, and coordinating conjunctions.		1.3
I can correctly spell common word parts. <i>Examples: roots, suffixes, prefixes, syllables, inflections</i>		1.7
Area	MATH STANDARDS	
Number Sense Whole Numbers	I can read and write whole numbers in the millions.	1.1
	I can order and compare whole numbers and decimals to two decimal places.	1.2
	I can round whole numbers to the nearest ten, hundred, thousand, ten thousand, or hundred thousand.	1.3
	I can decide when a rounded solution is called for and explain why such a solution may be appropriate.	1.4

NUMBER SENSE	I can use negative numbers in counting and on a number line. I can also order and compare negative numbers. <i>Example: Is -9 greater or less than -10?</i>	1.8
	I can accurately add and subtract multi-digit numbers. <i>Examples: $619,581 - 23,183 = \underline{\quad}$ $6,747 + 321,105 = \underline{\quad}$</i>	3.1
	I can multiply a multi-digit number by a 2- digit number, divide a multi-digit number by a 1-digit number, and check my work.	3.2
	I can solve problems involving multiplication of multi-digit numbers by two-digit numbers.	3.3
	I can solve problems involving division of multi-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers. <i>Example: $49,762 \div 6 =$</i>	3.4
	I can factor small numbers. <i>Example: $12 = 4 \times 3 = 2 \times 6 = 2 \times 2 \times 3$</i>	4.1
	I can write tenths and hundredths in decimal and fraction notations and know the fraction and decimal equivalents for halves and fourths.	1.6
	I can add and subtract decimal numbers to the hundredths place. <i>Example: Solve $55.73 - 48.25 =$</i>	2.1
	I can solve multiplication and division problems involving a relationship between 2 things. <i>Example: John wants to buy a dozen pencils. One store offers pencils at 6 for \$1. Another offers them at 4 for 65 cents. Yet another sells pencils at 15 cents each. Where should John purchase his pencils in order to save the most money?</i>	3.2
	I can explain that a fraction is a number that shows part of a whole or part of a set or a division of a whole number by whole numbers. I can draw and write an equivalent fraction.	1.5
AF*	I can write the fraction represented by a drawing of parts of a figure, represent a given fraction by using drawings, and relate a fraction to a simple decimal on a number line.	1.7
	I can use a number line to compare the value of fractions, mixed numbers, and decimals relative to each other.	1.9
	I know how to solve expressions that have parentheses.	1.2
Measurement & Geometry	I can measure the area of rectangular shapes and use appropriate units. <i>Example: $cm^2, in^2, yard^2, meter^2, km^2, mile^2$</i>	1.1
	I can use formulas to calculate the perimeters and areas of rectangles. I can also use these formulas for more complex figures by dividing the figures into basic shapes.	1.4
	I can identify lines that are parallel and perpendicular.	3.1
	I can define and name the attributes of equilateral, isosceles, and scalene triangles.	3.7
Stat., Data Anal. & Probability	I can state a definition for each of the kinds of quadrilaterals. <i>Example: Rhombus, square, rectangle, parallelogram, trapezoid</i>	3.8
	I can make up survey questions to collect data and display it on coordinate graphs, tables, charts, and number lines.	1.1
	I can identify the mode, median, and outliers for numerical data sets.	1.2

* AF= Algebra Functions