<u>Tips to Support Learning at Home</u>

Language Arts Tips

- Encourage your child to describe people, impressions, and events to you.
- Encourage your child to write letters to relatives, friends, newspaper editors, etc.
- If your child likes a particular song, suggest learning the words by writing them down. Take time to discuss the lyrics with him. What appeals to him? What do the lyrics really mean? What values do they talk about?
- When your child encounters a "hard" word, look it up in the dictionary with him. Discuss all the various meanings. Particularly point out where the words came from (Greek, Latin, Old English, etc.).
- As you read a book with your child, ask her questions about the book's characters, places, events, plot, moral or values, etc. Have your child read a new story. Then ask him to tell you the story in his own words as fully as possible and in the order it happened.
- Ask your child how a book she's reading is similar and different than other books she's read.
- Ask your child to tell you the things he's done that are similar to the events in a story or book. Ask your child about a book's author. Why did he write the book? How did she write it? Is it fiction, non-fiction, or parts of both? What's the author's point of view?
- Read and discuss the newspaper's editorials with your child, especially if they have something to do with children. Does he agree or disagree? Why? Why not? What would he say about the editorials? What are the basic values involved in them?
- When your child has a major writing assignment, help her fully understand and use all stages of the writing process: thinking, researching, organizing, outlining, drafting, revising, editing, final production.
- Take your child to stage plays, musicals, cultural exhibits, and the like. Afterwards, discuss them with him. Have him tell you about his experiences, and what he saw, and learned.

Math Tips

- As you plan your next outing or trip, get a map that has the miles listed between cities. Have your child calculate the number of miles roundtrip a certain trip would take. How long would the trip take? How many gallons of gas? How much would the gas cost for the entire trip?
- Ask your child to measure every room in your house or apartment. Ask your child to measure the length and width. Then multiply the length times the width to calculate the total square footage.
- Whenever you come across a math problem in your daily life, invite your child to talk it out with you, even if it's challenging: taxes, major purchases, the value of items in your home, computer and printer purchase, family food bills, computing monthly cost for a car (purchase, loan interest, maintenance, insurance, gas, etc). Ask her to think if she's solved anything similar before that might apply.
- Ask your child to look through a newspaper or magazine. Have her find and list as many percentages and decimal numbers as possible – sale prices, sports scores, bank rates. Ask her what would happen without those "%" or decimal points.
- Ask your child to make a personal budget. Make a two-column list of expenses and income. See if the bottom lines match. How can he reduce spending, increase income or add a savings plan?
- Help your child understand living costs. Make a list of monthly costs: heat, electricity, phone, rent/mortgage, garbage, water, food. Fold the paper to hide the costs and ask him to guess the cost of each item. Unfold the paper. How do his estimates compare?
- After your next grocery shopping trip, give the receipt to your child and ask him to double check the addition, multiplication, and subtraction. During your next grocery trip have your child weigh things and compute the price. "Please get me 1½ pounds of potatoes, at 39¢ a pound, how much will that cost?"
- ➢ Have your child look through the newspaper for a variety of graphs- bar, line, pie. Talk with her about each one, its significance to the story, and what information it provides.

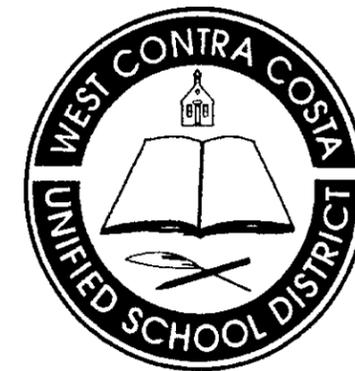# West Contra Costa
Unified School District

Essential "I Can" Student Standards

Sixth 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.

Area	READING LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS	
READING-Word Analysis, Fluency, and Vocabulary Development, Comprehension, Literacy Response & Analysis	I can identify and explain figurative language and words with multiple meanings. *Examples: metaphor, simile, meaning in context*	1.2
	I can use context clues to figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words.	1.4
	I can understand and explain the different shades of meaning in related words. *Examples: softly/quietly; young/youthful*	1.5
	I can evaluate whether the evidence presented in a text adequately supports the author's conclusion.	2.6
	I can recognize and show examples of unsupported inferences, false reasoning, persuasion, and propaganda in texts.	2.8
	I can analyze how a character's qualities or traits impact the plot of a story. *Examples: courage or cowardice, ambition or laziness*	3.2
WRITING—Strategies, Written and Oral Conventions	I can write multiple-paragraph compositions that engage the reader, state a clear purpose, develop the topic with detail and precise language, and conclude with a summary.	1.2
	I can revise my writing to improve the organization and consistency of ideas.	1.6
	I can express complete thoughts using simple, compound, and complex sentence structure.	1.1
	I can identify and correctly use indefinite pronouns and complex verb tenses and make sure that verbs agree with compound subjects. *Examples: present perfect, past perfect, future perfect*	1.2
	I can use colons, semicolons, and commas. 1.3 *Examples:* After salutations in business letters— *Dear Sirs:* To connect independent clauses— *My bird is blue, yellow, and green; has a sharp beak; and can tal*k. To link clauses with a conjunction (list*)— I would like a hamburger, fries, and a drink.*	
	I can spell frequently misspelled words. *Examples: their, they're, ther*e	1.5

Area	MATH STANDARDS	
ALGEBRA & FUNCTIONS	I can write an algebraic expression using up to three variables for a given situation. *Example: Write an algebraic expression for the phrase "the product of k and x."*	1.2
	I can evaluate an algebraic expression using up to three variables. *Example: Evaluate m + n + p for m = 45, n = 9, and p = 5.*	1.2
	I can use the order of operations to evaluate expressions and justify each step in the process.	1.3
	I can use the commutative, associative, and distributive properties to evaluate expressions and justify each step in the process.	1.3
	I can solve problems manually using the correct order of operations.	1.4
	I can use variables in expressions that describe geometric quantities. *Examples: perimeter of a rectangle: P = 2w + 2 l; area of triangle: 1/2 bh*	3.1
NUMBER SENSE - Fractions, Decimals, & Percents	I can compare and order positive and negative fractions, decimals, and mixed numbers, and place them on a number line.	1.1
	I can interpret and use ratios in different contexts with appropriate notations. *Examples: miles per hour(a/b), ratio of girls to boys (1:2)...*	1.2
	I can use proportions to solve problems. I can use cross multiplication as a way to solve proportions.	1.3
	I can find the percent of a given quantity. *Example: Calculate the percent, a) Find 20% of 48.*	1.4
	I can solve percent problems involving tips. *Example: Calculate a 15% tip for a restaurant bill of $50.76.*	1.4
	I can solve percent problems involving discounts. *Example: You buy a pair of shoes on sale. The price is 80% of the regular price of $24.50. What is the sale price?*	1.4
	I can solve addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division problems with positive and negative numbers.	2.3
	I can determine the greatest common factor (GCF) of whole numbers and use the GCF to simplify fractions. *Example: Find the GCF of 12 and 72 by listing all the factors of the numbers.*	2.4
	I can determine the least common multiple (LCM) of whole numbers.	2.4
MEASURE-MENT AND GEOMETRY	I can use common estimates of *pi (3.14, $^{22}/_7$)* to calculate the circumference and area of a circle.	1.2
	I can apply the formulas for volume of triangular prisms and cylinders to problems.	1.3
	I can describe vertical, adjacent, complementary, and supplementary angles.	2.1
SDAP	I can represent all possible outcomes for compound events using tables, grids, and dia-	
	I can calculate and represent probabilities as ratios, proportions, decimals between 0 and 1, and percentages between 0 and 1 and check how reasonable my answers are.	3.3