Talk with Your Child’s Teacher

Academic targets provide a great opportunity for you to talk with teachers about what your child is learning in school and how you can support that learning at home.

Be sure to ask:

About learning targets
- Can I see an example of a grade-level academic target?
- May I look at some of my child’s work related to this target?
- What kinds of activities and lessons are used in school to help my child meet or exceed this target?
- What can I do at home to help my child reach the target?

About your child’s progress
- In what subjects is my child working at grade level?
- What areas of learning need improvement?
- Is my child reading at grade level? Can you suggest some books that my child can read?
- Is my child’s math performance at grade level? How can I support this at home?
- What do assessments say about my child as a learner?

About ways you can support learning
- Besides report cards, what are other ways I can keep up-to-date on how my child is doing?
- If my child is not at grade level, what support is available at school?
- If my child is at grade level, what enrichment is being offered at school?
- How can I help to improve learning at home?

Useful Links

Fine Arts
http://finearts.mpls.k12.mn.us

Health and Physical Education
http://healthphyed.mpls.k12.mn.us

Information Technology
http://its.mpls.k12.mn.us

Literacy
http://ela.mpls.k12.mn.us/elementary

Mathematics
http://math.mpls.k12.mn.us

Multilingual Learners
http://multilingual.mpls.k12.mn.us

Science
http://science.mpls.k12.mn.us

Social Studies
http://socialstudies.mpls.k12.mn.us

Talent Development and Advanced Learner Education
http://giftedandtalented.mpls.k12.mn.us

World Languages
http://worldlanguages.mpls.k12.mn.us

More Information

For more information, contact your child’s school or call the MPS Teaching and Learning Department at 612.668.5300.
### Learning activities you can do at home:

#### The following strategies may be practiced in your family's native language as well as in English.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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| LITERACY | • Tell the difference between first- and third-person narrations  
• Write a summary stating key points of the text  
• Identify main ideas and important details of a text  
• Distinguish fact from opinion  
• Compare and contrast the point of view from different stories  |
| MATHEMATICS | • Find purposes for reading at home; ask your child to find information about a new movie, read directions for assembling a new toy, read a menu or find a business in the yellow pages  
• Set aside regular time for reading in your family, independent of schoolwork  
• Create a special place for your child to keep his or her own books  |
| SCIENCE | • Practice basic facts at home  
• Ask your child to help you with recipe adjustments  
• Ask your child to calculate discounts and the total purchase price while shopping  
• Try to determine the outcome of multiple coin tosses  
• Create (set aside) number sequences with both correct and incorrect answers, then ask your child to determine if they are true or false  |
| SOCIAL STUDIES | • Have your child measure the perimeter (distance around an enclosed figure) of each room in your house and then find the area (length x width = “sq. units”) of each room  
• Look for graphs, tables and charts in magazines and newspapers, then discuss the data  
• Watch the weather forecast and play games of chance (“How many inches of snow will fall?”, “How hot will it get tomorrow?”)  |
| PHYSICAL EDUCATION | • Take inventory of things that use electricity in your home  
• Use a small magnnet to “test” metal objects in the house  
• Dismantle and discover what is inside a small electric toy or appliance  
• Discuss and practice water conservation at home  |

### By the end of the school year, we expect that a fourth-grade student can:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Skills and Knowledge</th>
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| LITERACY | • Recognize when his or her reading material is too easy or too difficult and make appropriate changes  
• Use reading strategies (e.g. ask questions, make connections, take notes, make inferences, visualize, reread) that will help him or her comprehend unfamiliar words or difficult texts  
• Identify main ideas and important details of a text  
• Distinguish fact from opinion  
• Compare and contrast the point of view from different stories  |
| MATHEMATICS | • Find purposes for reading at home; ask your child to find information about a new movie, read directions for assembling a new toy, read a menu or find a business in the yellow pages  
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### Fourth-graders experience a broad range of instruction that supports and enriches academic learning and understanding.

**Arts Education** is about creating, performing and responding through visual and performing arts. Fourth-graders learn to:

- Use the elements and principles of art to create, reflect on and solve visual art problems
- Improvise and compose longer phrases of music
- Demonstrate combinations of movement alone and within a group

**Health** is developing the skills, knowledge and confidence to make good choices for personal health. Fourth-graders learn to:

- Identify ways to resolve conflict at home, in school and with friends
- Use first aid to help a victim who is choking, including demonstrating the Heimlich maneuver
- Demonstrate the ability to plan healthy meals and snacks within the recommendations of MyPlate
- Create rational counter-arguments for pressure to use tobacco, alcohol and other drugs

**Mathematics** is about creating, performing and responding within a group on and solve visual art problems. Fourth-graders learn to:

- Add, subtract, multiply and divide whole numbers up to three digits
- Estimate products
- Solve real world problems using addition, subtraction and multiplication
- Write and read number sentences that involve multiplication, division and unknown variables to represent a real-world problem
- Find the area of a square or rectangle and other real-world objects

**Science** is about creating, performing and responding within a group on and solve visual art problems. Fourth-graders learn to:

- Generate scientific questions
- Record and explain his or her observations and procedures
- Construct explanations based on evidence
- Measure with accuracy using the metric system

**Social Studies** is about creating, performing and responding within a group on and solve visual art problems. Fourth-graders learn to:

- Use a range of maps to locate the United States, Canada and Mexico
- Create various kinds of maps and places in the United States, Canada and Mexico
- Use map features to locate places and answer questions
- Name and locate all states, state capitals and major U.S. cities

**Instructional Media and Technology** is helping students learn to:

- Appropriately use internet search engines as following
- Select the best way to communicate information
- Appropriately use internet search engines as following
- Understand that creators of media have ownership rights (copyright) that must be respected
- Select the best way to communicate information
- Use appropriate computer applications for specific tasks

*Not all sites offer world language immersion*