On Common Ground

Fifth Grade, Trimester 1

This newsletter provides an overview of what your child will learn based on the Missouri Learning Standards during the first trimester of fifth grade in reading, writing, and mathematics. It also offers ideas to support your child's learning at home.

WHAT ARE THE MISSOURI LEARNING STANDARDS?

- The Missouri Learning Standards initiative was a state-led effort to establish a shared set of clear academic standards for English language arts and mathematics that districts may voluntarily adopt. The standards have been created based on the best available evidence and the highest state standards across the country.
- The standards were created by a group of teachers, content experts, school administrators, and parents.
- The goal of the standards is to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to go to college or enter the workforce and that parents, teachers, and students have a clear understanding of what is expected from them.
- The standards are also benchmarked to international standards to guarantee that students are competitive in the emerging global marketplace.

Reading

At school, students will:
- Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says.
- Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in text.
- Determine the meaning of similes and metaphors in text.
- Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.
- Compare and contrast the overall structure of events, ideas, concepts, or information in two or more texts.

At home, you can:
- Ask your child questions about stories he/she is reading; have them use parts of the story to explain their thinking.
- Read news or magazine articles with your child. Discuss the main points of the article with them.
- Ask your child to compare characters or events from two different stories.
- Have your child summarize something he/she is reading.

Writing

At school, students will:
- Write narrative stories to develop real or imagined experiences or events using descriptive details.
- Use dialogue, description, and pacing to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.
- Use words, phrases, and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely.
- Develop and strengthen writing by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach with support of peers and adults.
- Consider task, purpose, and audience when preparing to write.

At home, you can:
- Encourage your child to retell events in order, adding details to make the story more interesting.
- Include your child in real-life writing experiences. For example, your family could write a letter to a family member to share recent events.
- Show your child how to use quotation marks in writing to show someone speaking.
- Encourage your child to use descriptive words in speaking and writing.

Mathematics

At school, students will:
- Solve equations with whole numbers using different methods, such as mental math or guess and check.
- Multiply a whole number of up to four digits by one digit (e.g., 4,291 x 6).
- Do division problems with up to four digit numbers divided by two digit numbers with no remainders.
- Add, subtract, multiply and divide decimals to hundredths place using concrete models or drawings with different strategies.

At home, you can:
- Ask your child to add mentally when shopping at the store.
- Encourage your child to use both drawings and equations when solving problems.
- Practice multiplying large numbers by one and two digit numbers.
- Practice dividing large numbers by a one and two digit number.