This newsletter provides an overview of what your child will learn based on the Missouri Learning Standards during the second 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.
- Determine the theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.
- Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story.
- Determine the meaning of figurative language such as metaphors and similes.
- Describe how a narrator’s or speaker’s point of view influences how events are described.

**At home, you can:**
- Ask your child questions about stories he/she is reading; have him/her use parts of the story to explain his/her thinking.
- Find poetry or plays to read or watch with one another.
- Read stories or dramas together; discuss the characters and their challenges.
- Look for similes and metaphors in books and poetry.
- Find books to read that include narration.

**Writing**

**At school, students will:**
- Write informative texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
- Introduce the topic clearly, provide general observation or focus and group related information logically.
- Link ideas using words, phrases and clauses (e.g. in contrast, especially).
- Provide a concluding statement or section.
- Develop and strengthen writing by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach with support of peers and adults.

**At home, you can:**
- Encourage your child to keep a personal journal or diary to tell his/her own stories.
- Include your child in real-life writing experiences (e.g., your family could write a letter to a family member to share recent events).
- Show your child how to use informational books and the Internet to locate information.
- Encourage your child to use descriptive words in speaking and writing.

**Mathematics**

**At school, students will:**
- Add and subtract fractions using models, drawings, and numbers.
- Solve word problems involving the addition and subtraction of fractions.
- Use parenthesis, brackets, or braces in numerical expressions.
- Use place value understanding to round decimals to any place.

**At home, you can:**
- Use estimation at the grocery store with your child.
- Practice solving equations that include parenthesis, brackets, and/or braces.
- Discuss how fractions are used in everyday life.
- Work with your child on adding and subtracting fractions.