

How can I help my child at home?

Reading & Writing

- Provide time and space for your child to read independently, free from distractions such as television/video games.
- Ask your child what topics, events, or activities he or she likes. Then look for books, magazines, or other materials about those topics that would motivate your child to read.
- Read and discuss books, articles or internet stories together by using websites found on Manchester K-8 Resource Page.
- Have your child write letters and/or cards to family and friends, telling about an important event in their life, recent trip, or something important to them. Include pictures or graphics to make this a fun activity.

Mathematics

- Play math games with your child. For example, "I'm thinking of two numbers whose product is between 20 and 30. How many pairs can you think of that would answer this problem?" Have your child explain the solutions. How does your child know that all the number pairs have been identified?
- Encourage your child to write or describe numbers in different ways. For example, "What are some different ways to make 1450?" $1450 = 1 \text{ thousand}, 4 \text{ hundreds}, 5 \text{ tens}, \text{ and } 0 \text{ ones}$, or $1000 + 450$, or $14 \text{ hundreds and } 50 \text{ ones}$.
- Use everyday objects to allow your child to explore the concept of fractions. For example, use measuring cups to have your child demonstrate how many $\frac{1}{3}$'s are in a whole, how many $\frac{1}{4}$ cups you need to make $1\frac{1}{4}$ cups, and how many times you have to refill a $\frac{1}{2}$ cup measure to make $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups.
- Reinforce fact fluency by using math websites, found on the Manchester K-8 Resource Page.
- Play board games (like Monopoly) and dominoes (multiplication dominoes) to practice multi-digit fluency within adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing.

Manchester Public Schools

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Office of the Superintendent: (860) 647-3441

Office of Curriculum & Instruction: (860) 647-3447

Pupil Personnel Services: (860) 647-3448

<http://www.mpspride.org>

Bowers Elementary School

141 Princeton Street, Manchester, CT 06042
(860) 647-3313

Buckley Elementary School

250 Vernon Street, Manchester, CT 06042
(860) 647-3302

Highland Park Elementary School

397 Porter Street, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 647-3430

Keeney Elementary School

179 Keeney Street, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 647-3354

Martin Elementary School

140 Dartmouth Road, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 647-3367

Robertson Elementary School

65 North School Street, Manchester, CT 06042
(860) 647-3372

Verplanck Elementary School

126 Olcott Street, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 647-3383

Waddell Elementary School

163 Broad Street, Manchester, CT 06042
(860) 647-3392

Washington Elementary School

94 Cedar Street, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 647-3332

Elisabeth M. Bennet Academy

1151 Main Street, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 647-3571

Illing Middle School

227 East Middle Turnpike, Manchester, CT 06042
(860) 647-3400

Manchester High School

134 East Middle Turnpike, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 647-3521

Bentley Alternative Education

134 East Middle Turnpike, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 647-3342

Manchester Regional Academy

665 Wetherell Street, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 647-3495

Manchester Preschool Center

60 Washington Street, Manchester, CT 06042
(860) 647-3502



A Parent Guide to District Curriculum



Grade 4

Adapted from Council of Great City Schools' Parent Roadmaps
<http://www.cgcs.org>

Initiatives and Changes

What are the Common Core State Standards?

The Common Core State Standards, adopted by Connecticut's State Board of Education in 2010, provide teachers, students and families with expectations of what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. These standards are designed to ensure that students graduate from high school and are prepared to meet the demands of college and the workforce.

What are the Common Core Shifts for English Language Arts and Mathematics?

English Language Arts:

- Regular independent reading using challenging fiction and non-fiction pieces.
- Effectively communicating (writing/speaking), especially arguing an idea or opinion supported by evidence.
- Applying reading skills to acquire knowledge of the world through non-fiction text.

Mathematics:

- Students are to learn more, but about fewer topics.
- Students will be instructed in highly rigorous topics.
- Students will be given instruction, practice and time to more deeply understand these topics.
- Knowledge and skills are strengthened within each grade and from grade to grade.
- Students will show their work, explain their thinking and defend their answers.

What is the Smarter Balanced Assessment?

The Smarter Balanced Assessment is Connecticut's new state test to assess student's learning of the Connecticut Core Standards. This test is taken on the computer during the spring in the areas of Mathematics and English Language Arts.

District Workshop Model

Manchester Public Schools is embracing the workshop model in the classroom, starting in the 2014-2015 school year, in grades K-8. Workshop is an approach to teaching major skills (math, writing, reading) in which teachers model concepts and skills, provide structured small group lessons, and allow for independent practice.

WHAT WILL MY CHILD LEARN IN...

English Language Arts

In grade four, children will continue to build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will read more challenging literature, articles, and other sources of information and continue to grow their vocabulary. They will also be expected to clearly explain in detail what they have read by referring to details or information from the text. Activities in these areas will include:

Reading: Identifying the theme/main idea of a story, play, poem or non-fiction piece; comparing ideas across several texts

Other Ways to Find, Organize & Present Information: Understanding how information is organized in textbooks, articles, charts, graphs, timelines, illustrations; taking advantage of how information is organized to effectively read and create written, oral and digital presentations

Rules of Spoken and Written English: Grammar; parts of speech; correctly using frequently confused words (too, two, to; their, there, they're); correct capitalization and punctuation (commas and quotation marks)

Oral Language: Giving a class presentation on a topic or telling a story using relevant, organized facts and details and speaking clearly

Writing: Organizing information from books, articles, and online sources to learn more about a topic; writing stories with dialogue and descriptions of character's actions thoughts, and feelings, as well as event order; Writing research/opinion papers, making sure to use relevant organized facts and details

Mathematics

In grade four, your child will use addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to solve word problems. Your child will continue to build understanding of fractions—creating equal fractions, comparing the size of fractions, adding and subtracting fractions, and multiplying fractions by whole numbers. Children will also start to understand the relationship between fractions and decimals. Activities in these areas will include:

Place Value: Extending place value understanding for multi-digit whole numbers up to a million

Four Operations and Whole Numbers: Adding and subtracting whole numbers up to 1 million quickly and accurately; multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers; using 4 operations with whole numbers to solve problems

Fractions: Extending understanding of fractions by comparing the size of two fractions with different numerators (top numbers) and different denominators (bottom numbers); creating equal fractions ($\frac{3}{4} = \frac{6}{8}$); adding and subtracting fractions with the same denominator; building fractions from smaller fractions ($\frac{3}{8} = \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{8}$)

Geometry: Measuring angles in whole number degrees using a protractor; drawing points, lines, line segments, rays, angles, perpendicular and parallel lines; classifying 2-D shapes based on their parallel and/or perpendicular lines and angles

Measurement: Solving multi-step word problems involving measurement and converting measurements from larger to smaller units, (for example 1 foot = 12 inches)

Decimals: Converting fractions with denominators of 10 or 100 into decimals; locating decimals on a number line; comparing decimals and fractions using the symbols > (greater than), = (equal to), and < (less than)