

How can I help my child at home?

Reading & Writing

- Read and discuss books with your child every day for at least 15 minutes. Ask questions about the story, the characters and connections to their life. Read sight words together while reading (I, the, and)
- Watch a TV show with your child. Ask your child to retell the story in his or her own words by telling what happened first, second, third, etc. Now try it with a book.
- Have your child practice writing his/her name.
- Pick a letter or sound of the day. Have your child name as many words as they can beginning with that letter or sound. Look for other words with that same letter or sound in a book.
- Practice stretching the sounds in a word, listening for sounds at beginning, middle and end. (ex. cat. Say “Cat, starts with c-c-c then a-a-a and ends with t-t-t).

Mathematics

- Use everyday objects to allow your child to count and group a collection of objects.
- Encourage your child to construct numbers in multiple ways. For example, what are some ways that you can make 10? Answers might include 5+5, 6+4, 8+2, etc. Have your child explain his or her thinking.
- If you had 3 apples and your brother ate one, how many will you have left.

Manchester Public Schools

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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



Kindergarten

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.

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 kindergarten, your child will learn to read and use the alphabet; break down words into syllables and letters and identify the sounds each letter makes. The focus is on using written and spoken language effectively. Activities in these areas will include:

Alphabet: Naming and writing upper & lowercase letters; matching letters to sounds

Recognizing Words: Learning and using sight words and learning ways to read new/unknown words

How Language & Reading Work Together: Words are made up of parts (syllables); words that rhyme often share spelling patterns (cat/sat); spelling of words students are learning to read

What are the Parts of the Book and How Do We Use It?: Identifying front cover, back cover, title page; reading left to right, top to bottom, one page at a time

Comprehension/Understanding: Understanding main ideas and details of stories (printed/spoken); asking and answering questions about stories the teacher reads out loud; retelling the story

Writing: Using pictures and words to describe an event, give information about a topic, or sharing an opinion

Mathematics

In kindergarten, your child will learn shapes, numbers and what numbers represent. Children will also learn how to add and subtract. Activities in these areas include:

Knowing Numbers and Counting: Counting to 100 by ones and tens; counting forward beginning with a number other than 1; writing numbers from 0-20; using objects to show written number

Counting and Comparing: Counting objects in a group; comparing the numbers of two groups of objects; comparing two numbers to tell which is greater/bigger or less/smaller than the other

Addition and Subtraction: Understanding addition as putting together and subtraction as taking away from; adding and subtracting within 5 quickly and accurately; representing and solving problems using addition and subtraction

Measuring: Measuring attributes (length, width, weight)

Shapes: Identifying shapes regardless of orientation or size (e.g., a square oriented as a "diamond" is still a square)