

Learning Guide for Families

A summary of what children should know and be able to do and ways for families to increase learning at home.



*"We believe families are our partners.
They are the first and most powerful
educators of children. Together we will
ensure success for all students."*

- Superintendent Emmanuel Caulk,
Fayette County Public Schools

About our learning guides:

This guide represents some of the most essential things your child should know and be able to do by the END of the school year in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. Learning goals help families and teachers know when students may need extra support and when they need to be challenged even more.

What can families do?

There is a lot you can do to support your child's learning and help prepare them for their future. Here are a few things that will help students succeed:

1. Share with your child how important education is to you. Tell them education matters, that it's the foundation for success.
2. Make school a priority by getting your child to school on time every day. By doing so, you demonstrate that it is a priority.
3. Work collaboratively with the school to build mutual respect.
4. Encourage independence; allow your children to make mistakes and accept responsibility for their choices.
5. Discuss with your child about what is happening in school.
6. Communicate consistently with your child's teacher to make sure your child is making progress throughout the year.
7. Attend parent-teacher conferences and other school events whenever possible.
8. You have a right to know how your child is doing; don't hesitate to contact his/her teacher if you have questions.

Talking with your child's teacher

It's important to communicate with your child's teacher and school regularly about your student's progress toward learning goals. Here are some sample questions to ask:

- Where is my child strong and where does he/she need to improve?
- How is my child's progress being measured throughout the year?
- Can I see examples of my child's work? How do they meet or do not meet learning goals?
- Is my child on track to meet grade-level learning goals? If not, what supports will the school offer? What can I do at home?
- Is my child at or above learning expectations? If so, what else does the school offer? What can I do at home?
- Have you read my child's IEP? What accommodations are being made for my child?
- My child is an English language learner. How is my child's language development supported at school?

Talking with your child

Does this sound familiar?

“How was school today?”

“Fine”

“What did you do?”

“Nothing”

That’s okay, keep asking!

Students whose parents talk with them about school do better academically in school. Here are some ways you can engage with your child and support their success:

- Designate a time of day every day to talk with your child about school.
- Ask your child to tell you one thing they learned today. What does your child think is most interesting? What seems hard?
- Review papers and projects your child brings home from school. Ask your child: How do you know that? What do you think? What do you notice? Why did you do it that way? Is there another way to find that answer?
- Praise your child for hard work and effort, not just “right answers”.
- Ask questions about what your child is thinking: How do you know that? What do you think? What do you notice? Why did you do it that way? Is there another way to find that answer?

Supporting learning away from school

Learning doesn’t have to stop when students leave school. Students spend more time out of school than in school. Here are some ways you can support learning outside of school:

- Read to your child, read with your child, and encourage family reading time—in the language you are most comfortable.
- Set up a quiet and comfortable place for your student to do homework or other learning activities.
- Try to establish a regular schedule for doing homework or other learning activities.
- Use this guide to focus on a few learning goals; try some of the suggestions for learning at home. Find ways to make learning fun.
- Urge your child to use logical arguments to defend his or her opinion. For example, if your child wants a raise in allowance, ask him or her to research how allowances are given. Then based on that research, explain reasons why they need a raise in their allowance and support their request by using details and facts.
- Talk about the news together. Pick one story, read it with your child and discuss what it means.
- Talk with your child about their goals. What do they want to do after high school? Listen to what they’re saying and give them advice to help them reach their goal.

What your student should know and be able to do in English Language Arts (ELA)

Language

- Understand figurative language (descriptive language using words outside their original meaning). For example: “The sun sparkled like diamonds on the surface of the water.”
- Use interviews to gather information for a research project, such as a family history.
- Understand subtle differences of meaning in related words, such as cool/cold/icy/frigid.
- Build knowledge of academic words with an emphasis on those that signal a contrast in ideas or logical relationships, such as “on the other hand”, “similarly”, and “therefore”.
- Demonstrate command of English language conventions – capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

Reading and Literature

- Identify and analyze
 - main ideas, text features, and supporting details in a nonfiction book or article.
 - how the author uses dialogue and description in a fiction book or story.
 - how the author uses the elements of setting, characterization, and plot in fiction stories and books.
- Combine information from multiple print and digital sources to answer questions and solve problems.

Writing

- Analyze literature and articles and write a piece that includes details from the text to support his/her ideas. For example: write a letter to an author or to a company.
- Write research reports with his/her own words, a clear focus, and supporting detail.
- Write original stories that contain the basic elements of fiction: plot, characters, and setting and include dialogue, description, and effective pacing of action.
- Write opinions that provide facts and examples that are logically grouped to support the writer’s point of view.



What your student should know and be able to do in Math:

- Solve problems in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, working with large numbers and with multi-step problems.
- Understand the relationship among fractions, decimals and percentages.
- Define the place-value system to include decimals, and calculate with decimals to the hundredths place (two places after the decimal).
- Add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators (numbers on bottom of fractions) and solve word problems of this kind. For example: $2\frac{1}{4} - 1\frac{1}{3}$.
- Multiply fractions; divide fractions in simple cases; and solve related word problems. For example: find the area of a rectangle with fractional side lengths; or if 3 people share $\frac{1}{2}$ pound of chocolate equally.
- Understand the concept of volume, and solve word problems that involve volume.
- Represent and interpret the relationships between two variables, such as time and height. For example: make a line graph of how a person has grown between the ages of 2 and 10 years and analyze when growth occurred at a faster or slower rate.
- Understand that some quadrilaterals can be classified in more than one way. A quadrilateral is any four-sided figure, like a parallelogram or a trapezoid.
- Find the volume and surface area of rectangular prisms. A rectangular prism is a three-dimensional object which has six faces that are rectangles like a shoe box.





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This brochure was published by the Fayette County Public Schools.

Created Fall 2016

