



Hello Parents, Welcome to First Grade!



2021-22

Your child is making strides toward high school graduation!

Parents have common questions about achievement and instruction as students move through each grade. This guide will point you to answers to help your student reach graduation.

What is my child learning?

State standards describe what Oregon students should know and be able to do by the end of the school year.

*** The Oregon Department of Education has suspended the Essential Skills graduation requirement until 2024.*

Learning to Read and Write

Characteristics of first grade readers:

- Recognizes the features of a sentence (Ex. first words, capitalization)
- Recognizes the spelling and sounds of two letters that represent one sound
- Reads one-syllable words
- Reads grade-level words with irregular spelling
- Uses strategies to read multisyllabic words
- Talks about and answers questions about a text



View a sample of first grade reading & writing at grade level

Math Foundations

Characteristics of first grade mathematics:

- Represents and solves addition and subtraction problems using various strategies
- Adds and subtracts within 20
- Uses place value understanding and properties of operations to add and subtract
- Measures lengths directly and indirectly
- Tells and writes time in hours and half-hours
- Represents and interprets data to solve problems
- Reasons with shapes and their attributes



View a sample of first grade math at grade level

What does it take to graduate?

It may seem strange to think about high school graduation when your child is in elementary school. But, it's important to set the goal early.

Elementary school is the time when students form a foundation of skills and knowledge they will build on year after year.

The best way to set your student up to reach graduation is to make sure he or she is meeting standards every year. NOW is the time to start.

How is my child doing?

Staying engaged in your child's education is critical.

For many students, having their parents be active members in their education can help keep them on track to graduate.

These are a few ways parents can stay involved in knowing how their child is doing in their classes and help their child receive supports needed to succeed.



Progress reports

Parents of elementary students receive three progress reports (report cards) each year. Salem-Keizer's elementary schools use a **proficiency grading system**, which means grades reflect the student's progress toward mastering a standard.

Grades are reported on a scale of one to four. A score of three means the student meets grade level standards, or is proficient.



Talk with your child's teacher

A conversation with the teacher is a great way to find out about student progress. Email is the fastest way to get in touch with teachers. Teachers may also be available for phone conversations after school.

Remember—it's important to attend parent-teacher conferences!

Please take advantage of this opportunity to meet one-on-one with your child's teacher.



Ongoing assessments

In kindergarten through second grade, teachers **continually evaluate** student work to gauge progress toward standards. This is called "ongoing assessment."

Older students (grades 3–8 and 11th grade) take annual state tests in reading, writing and math. Grades 5, 8 & 11 also take annual tests in science. (These tests provide the Oregon Department of Education with information on how well schools are helping students reach state standards.)

Teachers in these higher grades use state test information, ongoing assessment and other measures to help them gauge student learning. In future grades, parents can also use state test scores as one way to know how their students are doing.

How can I help at home?

As a parent or guardian, you are the most influential person in your child's future success.

There are many things you can do to help set your child up for success in school and for life after graduation.

HOME**COACH**:

Tips to prepare your child for graduation at home

- Demonstrate a positive attitude about school. Your children will model your attitude.
- Know about the academic concepts your child is learning (*reverse side*).
- Have a comfortable place set up for schoolwork and minimize distractions (*turn off the TV and video games*).
- Make sure there are supplies like paper and pencils.
- Read non-fiction books with your child, and talk about what's happening in the books.
- Encourage writing at home. Write together, and include details.
- Talk with your child about different jobs people do, and what skills are needed.
- Ask your child to solve simple math problems of everyday life like figuring correct change.
- Check your child's online learning platform for homework and messages sent from school, especially while in comprehensive distance learning.
- Try your best to help your child attend live class sessions and actively participate where possible.

Whether in comprehensive distance learning, or learning in-person in a physical school, regular engagement and participation in school is critically important, especially for young learners. Utilize ParentVUE to track student attendance, and encourage active participation in class activities each and every day.

Learn more about how you can support your student through their educational career with **HOME**COACH****: www.salemkeizer.org/homecoach

