



Hello Parents, Welcome to Third 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 third grade readers:

- Determines main ideas of nonfiction texts
- Retells the central message, lesson, moral and main idea of text
- Uses context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary
- Uses strategies to read multisyllabic words with common Latin suffixes and unknown words
- Asks and answers questions about the texts they read using appropriate terminology



View a sample of third grade **reading & writing** at grade level

Math Foundations

Characteristics of third grade mathematics:

- Represents and solves addition and subtraction problems within 100
- Solves problems involving the four operations
- Uses place value understanding and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic to 100
- Develops an understanding of fractions as numbers and represents them on number lines
- Solves problems in measurement, time, liquid volume, mass and using graphs
- Understands concepts of area and perimeter
- Reasons with shapes and their attributes (focus on quadrilaterals)



View a sample of third 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.

1

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.

2

Talk with your child's teachers

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.

3

State tests

Every year, Oregon students in grades 3–8 and 11th grade take state tests in reading, writing, and math. Grades 5, 8 & 11 also take annual tests in science. The tests measure students' knowledge of state standards, and give the Oregon Department of Education feedback about how schools are doing.

The state test for English language arts and math is called the Oregon Statewide Assessment. Students take the test in the spring, and the results are sent home around the end summer.

The Oregon Statewide Assessment was first used in our district in 2015, so it is still relatively new. Students will benefit from **encouragement and practice** to help them adjust to the new style of test.

After students have had more experience with the test, parents may choose to look at state test results as one way to gauge their student's progress toward mastering grade-level standards.

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 homework 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.
- 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****.

