



# Hello Parents, Welcome to Fourth 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 fourth grade readers:

- Knows and applies all letter-sound correspondences, syllabication patterns and morphology in and out of context
- Reads unfamiliar multisyllabic words
- Uses context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary
- Uses evidence to explain the main idea, theme, characters, setting and main event of a text
- Summarizes the text using the main idea and supporting details
- Compares and contrasts point of view



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

### Math Foundations

#### Characteristics of fourth grade mathematics:

- Uses the four operations with whole numbers to solve problems
- Gains familiarity with factors and multiples
- Uses place value and properties of operations to perform multi-digit arithmetic
- Extends understanding of fraction equivalence and ordering
- Adds and subtracts fractions, multiplies fractions and whole numbers
- Understands decimal notation for fractions and compares fractions
- Solves problems using conversions within one measurement system
- Draws, measures, classifies and identifies lines and angles



View a sample of fourth 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 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.



### State tests

**Every year, Oregon students in grades 3–8 and 11<sup>th</sup> grade take state tests in reading, writing, 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 results are sent home around the end of summer.

The Oregon Statewide Assessment was first used in our district in 2015. 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 state 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****.

