

# Understanding What Your Child Will Learn

Your child will learn many new concepts and skills over the course of the school year. In Louisiana, all public schools use the *Louisiana Student Standards* as the basis for what they teach students. These are provided for Grade 4 in the following content areas:

- English Language Arts & Reading
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Physical Education

Below are a few of the standards that your child will learn along with strategies you can use to support your child's learning at home.



## English Language Arts

### Standards for English Language Arts and Reading

The goal for students in English language arts (ELA) is to read, understand grade-level texts and express their understanding of those texts through writing and speaking. Students in Louisiana are ready for college or a career, when they are able to pick up any text, such as a picture book, newspaper, article, or painting, understand what the text means, and be able to speak or write about the ideas they learned or challenge text and explain why.

#### What does it mean?

By the end of the year 4th grade students will be able to:

- Summarize a story
- Make inferences from a text (story) and give direct quotes from the text as examples or details
- Tell the theme of a story, drama, or poem
- Know the meaning of a word from a story by using clues in the story and academic words (examine, interpret, cite evidence, analyze, stanza, prose)
- Explain the meaning of figurative language (simile, metaphor)
- Know the difference between a story, drama or poem by identifying its parts like stanza, paragraph, dialogue
- Determine, compare and contrast point of view (Is the story in 1st (I, me, my) or 3rd person (they, she, he)? How would the story change if you change the point of view?)
- Identify how nonfiction text is written (cause/effect, chronological (what happened 1st, 2nd, 3rd), use tools in the text Z(timeline, photograph, graphs)

#### How can you support your child?

- Listen to your child read
- Read to your child
- Have your child read a story and have a conversation about:
  - main idea
  - theme
  - compare the characters
  - how the character changed
  - point of view of the story
- Ask your child can to show you exact evidence to support his/her ideas from the story



## Writing

### Standards for English Language Arts and Reading

The goal for students in English language arts (ELA) is to read, understand grade-level texts and express their understanding of those texts through writing and speaking. Students in Louisiana are ready for college or a career, when they are able to pick up any text, such as a picture book, newspaper, article, or painting, understand what the text means, and be able to speak or write about the ideas they learned or challenge from the text and explain why.

#### What does it mean?

By the end of 4th grade your child will be able to:

- Write or talk about a topic from two different stories
- Write an opinion essay which includes strong reasoning (facts and details)
- Write a narrative using characters, sequence of events, dialogue, transitional words, and many details

#### How can you support your child?

- Encourage your child to write stories
- Help your child add details to their writing by asking them to tell you more about something
- Show interest in your child's writing



# Mathematics

## Standards for Mathematics

All students should be able to recall and use math skills a daily basis. A student should know simple math facts and know how to add, subtract, multiply, and divide basic numbers. They should be able to use the number system with ease. Students should be able to work with simple fractions and percentages. They should be able to apply basic algebra and geometry principles. These are addressed in five domains: operations and algebraic thinking, number and operations in base ten, number and operations -fractions, measurement and data and geometry. Additionally, students need to be able to reason mathematically, communicate with others about math through speaking and writing, and problem solve in real-world situations to be prepared mathematically for college or a career.

### What does it mean?

#### Operations and Algebraic Thinking

- Understand and model multiplication/division problems, Make multiplicative statements such as  $35=5 \times 7$  mean that 35 is 5 times as many 7 and 7 times as many as 5
- Use multiplication and division to solve multi-step word problems
- Find factors given a whole number, identify the multiples of numbers
- Identify the rule if given a pattern

#### Number and Operations-Base Ten

- Compare the value of a given number by applying place value (2 in 7,246 is 200, but 2 in 720 is 20)
- Write numbers in numerals, number names and expanded form, compare numbers
- Round numbers

#### Number and Operations-Fractions

- Understand what a fraction (in  $\frac{2}{4}$  what does the numerator 2 represent? what does the denominator 4 represent?)
- Find equivalent fractions
- Compare fractions with different numerators and denominators (Which is bigger  $\frac{2}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{3}$ ? Why?)
- Add and subtract fractions (in word problems as well)
- Find the equivalent decimal for a fraction with the denominator of 10 or 100
- Compare two decimals

#### Measurement and Data

- Know the relative size of measurements in metric and standard system (example: gram, kilometer, inch, mile); be able to convert measurements ( $4\text{ft}=? \text{in}$ )
- Use addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to solve world problems about distance, time, mass, and money
- Make a line plot, measure angles with a protractor, find the measurement of part of a right angle given one of the angles when it is divided in two
- Find the area and perimeter of a figure using the formula

#### Geometry

- Draw points, lines, line segments, rays, angles, perpendicular and parallel lines
- Classify shapes based on attributes
- Identify the line of symmetry of a figure

### How can you support your child?

- Complete all homework and talk to your child about what they are learning in school
- Provide your child with household items for them to represent word problems.
- If your child is struggling with reading the word problem, read it aloud to them and ask questions about the math problem.
- Allow your child to help you solve math problems that arise in everyday life.



# Science

## Standards for Science

The Louisiana Student Standards for Science represent the knowledge and skills needed for students to successfully transition to postsecondary educations and the workplace. The standards call for students to apply content knowledge on performance expectations. They will investigate, evaluate and reason scientifically using science engineering practices (asking questions, defining problems, developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, using mathematical and computational thinking, constructing explanations and designing solutions (engineering), engaging in argument with evidence, obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information. Students will explore concepts that cross all grade levels:

- patterns
- cause and effect
- scale, portion, and quantity
- systems and system models
- energy and matter
- structure and function
- stability and change

### What does it mean?

By the end of 4th grade your child will be able to:

#### Physical Science:

- ❖ Explain using evidence that faster moving objects have more energy
- ❖ Explain using evidence that energy in heat, light, and electric currents can be transferred from one place to another
- ❖ ask and answer questions about what happens to energy when objects collide
- ❖ Identify parts and patterns of waves in light, sound
- ❖ Explain how light allows the eye to see

#### Life Science

- ❖ Make a claim about how animal and plant structures (roots, needles on a pine tree, beaks, eyes) allow them to survive, grow and reproduce
- ❖ Identify how animals use receptors to get information (use of sound, light, temperature) to survive

#### Earth Science

- ❖ Identify patterns of rock formation that tells how landforms change over time
- ❖ Identify the effects of water, wind, ice and vegetation (weathering, erosion)
- ❖ Use maps to tell where earthquakes and volcanoes will occur
- ❖ ask and answer questions about how living things affect their environment (some plants have roots that stabilize or destabilize the soil)
- ❖ Identify renewable and nonrenewable resources and their uses
- ❖ Obtain information and make solutions to reduce human impact on earth

### How can you support your child?

- ❖ Complete all homework using class notes as a reference
- ❖ Have conversations with your child about what they are learning and go over class notes
- ❖ Find real-world applications for math content your child is learning and engage in conversations



# Social Studies

## Standards for Social Studies

The Louisiana Student Standards for Social Studies were written with the goal of producing individuals who have:

- ❖ a broad and deep knowledge of U.S. and world history
- ❖ a firm grasp and appreciation of the civic principles that underlie our system of government
- ❖ a solid understanding of fundamental economic principles and the ability to make wise financial decisions
- ❖ proficiency in both physical and human geography

To achieve these goals students should build content knowledge through engagement with authentic primary and secondary sources and express well-reasoned and nuanced arguments about social studies topics.

### What does it mean?

After each unit, your child should be able to answer the following questions:

#### Unit 1: Prehistory and Agricultural Revolution

Questions: What was life like for the earliest people and how did they come to populate the earth? How did farming change the world? What are the different characteristics of civilization and how are they related to the Agricultural Revolution?

#### Unit 2: Ancient Near East

Questions: Why is Mesopotamia often called the "Cradle of Civilization"? What were some of the contributions of Egypt to the Ancient World?

#### Unit 3: Civilization in the Eastern Hemisphere

Questions: What ideas, practices, and events united groups across the vast Indian subcontinent? What were the political and cultural characteristics of early China? Why were the ancient Greeks so influential?

#### Unit 4: The Growth of Empires

Questions: How did The Roman Republic Become an Empire? In what ways did life in China change during the Qin and Han Dynasties?

#### Unit 5: Early Civilization in North America

Questions: How did different groups living in prehistoric North America interact with their environment? How did different groups living in prehistoric North America and Louisiana interact with their environment, and each other?

#### Unit 6: The Maya

Questions: What do the ruins of the Maya tell us about their civilization?

### How can you support your child?

- Model asking questions for your child
- Go on walks to find interesting natural materials in your neighborhood or community
- Encourage your child to ask questions by showing interest in their questions
- Go over class notes and talk about what they are learning in class
- Complete homework and study for test with your child

