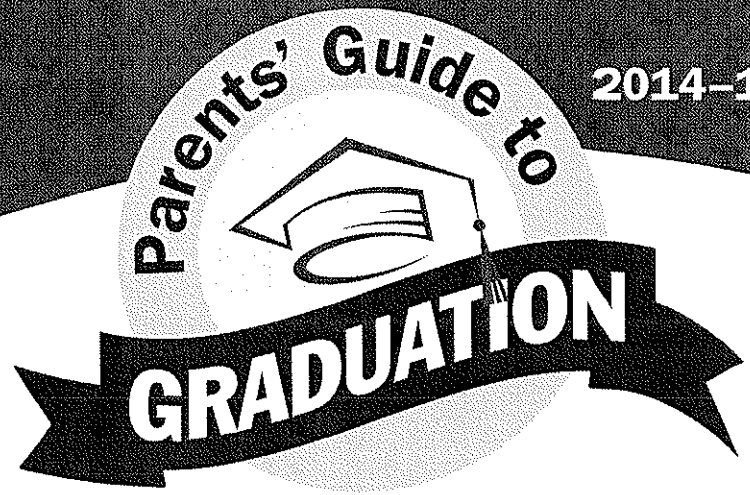


2014-15



Hello Parents,  
Welcome to

# Fifth Grade!

Your student is making strides  
toward high school graduation

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

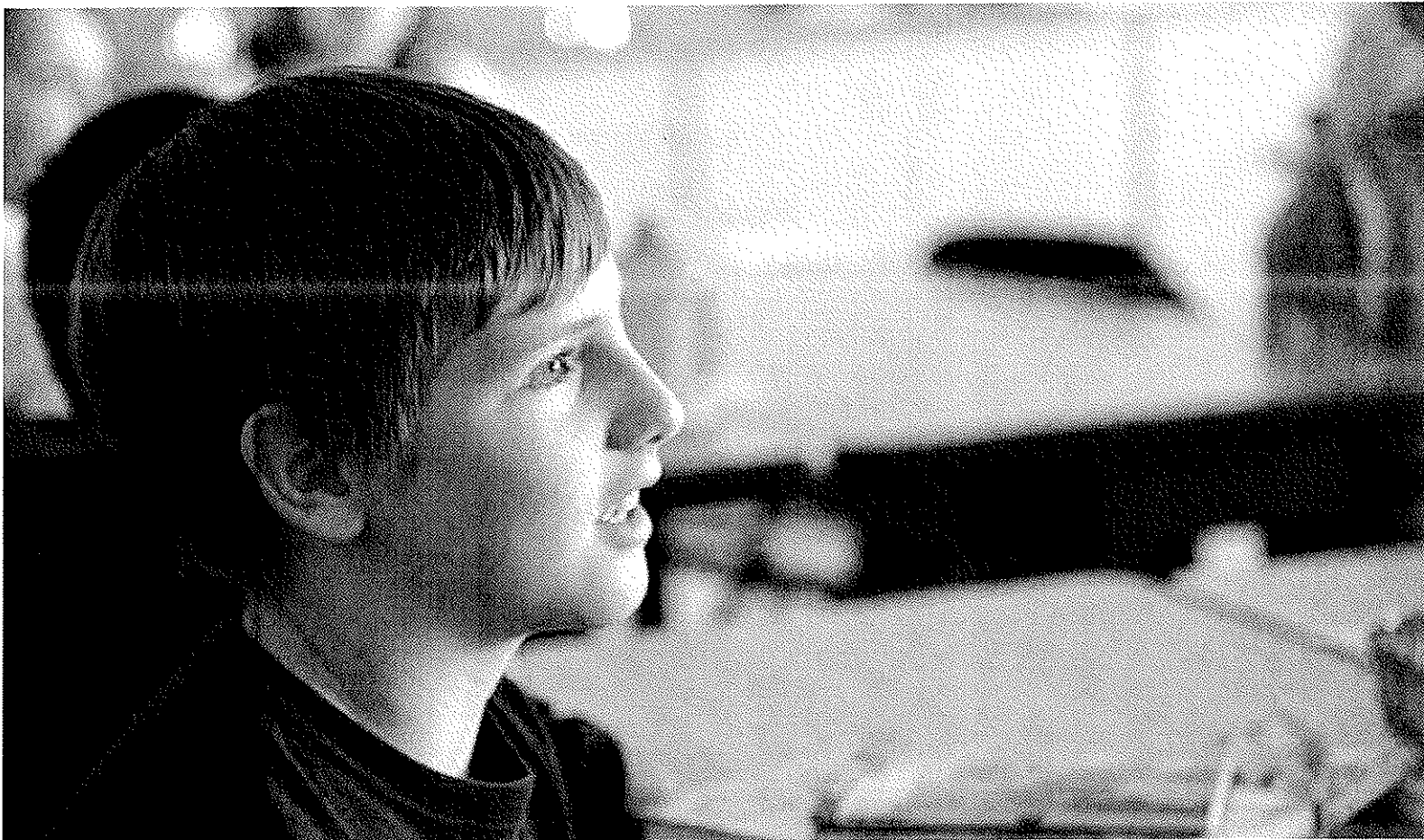
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## WHAT IS MY CHILD LEARNING?

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

For example, by the end of FIFTH GRADE, students should be able to:

### English Language Arts

(includes reading, writing, language, speaking and listening)

- Determine themes through key ideas. Summarize texts, including character development.
- Write pieces that are focused, sequenced and organized. Use words, phrases, clauses, and provide a conclusion.
- Use comparisons in texts, root words, prefixes, suffixes and cause and effect relationships to determine meaning of words and phrases.

### Math

- Add and subtract fractions with unlike denominators (bottom number).
- Use more than one way to solve multiplication and division problems with decimals, fractions and whole numbers.
- Understand the concept of volume, break down 3D shapes, and solve problems by using their understanding of multiplication and division.

### Science

- Describe the Sun-Earth-Moon system.
- Explain how energy from the sun affects earth's weather and climate.
- Share the findings of an investigation using graphs, maps, and models in speeches and written reports.

### Social Sciences

- Create and interpret timelines showing major people, events and developments in the early history of the United States.
- Describe and summarize how colonial and new states' governments affected groups in the population (citizens, slaves, foreigners, etc.)
- Identify principles of U.S. democracy found in the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights.

There are also standards for physical education, health education, art, English language acquisition (for English language learners) and others.

## WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GRADUATE?

It may seem strange to think about high school graduation when your student 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.**

Find more about high school graduation requirements at [www.skgradguide.com](http://www.skgradguide.com).



# HOW IS MY CHILD DOING?

Three ways to know:

## 1 Progress reports

- Parents of elementary students receive three progress reports (report cards) each year.
- Salem-Keizer elementary schools use a proficiency grading system, which means **grades reflect the student's progress toward mastering a standard.**
- Progress reports show grades on a scale of one to four. A score of three means meets grade level standards (is proficient).

## 2 State tests

Every year, Oregon students in grades 3–8 and grade 11 take state tests in reading, writing, math and science. The tests measure students' knowledge of standards.

Starting spring of 2015, students will take the Smarter Balanced Assessment for English language arts and math. The new test is more challenging than the old test because:

- It is longer and it takes stamina and perseverance to finish it.
- Writing is important in both the English language arts and math tests.
- Students need computer skills to take the test.
- There is only one opportunity to take the test each year (ask your school about its testing schedule).

The strenuous nature of Smarter Balanced may mean that **some students who did well on the old test may not do as well on Smarter Balanced — AT FIRST.**

This is expected when tests and standards change. Students will adapt with time, but need **extra encouragement and practice.**

## 3 Talk with the 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, but they are also available for phone conversations after school. It's also important to attend parent-teacher conferences every year. And, parents are ALWAYS welcome to visit the school, and to volunteer.



[www.skgradguide.com](http://www.skgradguide.com)

## HOW CAN I HELP AT HOME?

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

Here are a few things you can do to help set your student up for success.

- Demonstrate a positive attitude about school. Your children will model your attitude.
- Make sure your child attends school every day, unless they are sick.
- Know about the academic concepts your child is learning (see page 2).
- Have a comfortable place set up for homework and minimize distractions (turn off the TV and video games). Make sure there are enough supplies, like paper and pencils.
- Read non-fiction books with your student, and talk about what's happening in the books.
- Encourage writing at home. Write together, and include details.
- Talk with your student 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 backpack for homework and messages sent home from school every day.
- Check out the free resources on your school's website under library-media.
- Give your child opportunities to use a computer keyboard.
- If you don't have a computer or access to the Internet at home, take advantage of free technology in the school library and at public libraries.

Find tips and skill-building exercises at  
[www.skgradguide.com](http://www.skgradguide.com)

## 2014-15 DATES TO REMEMBER (Elementary)

First day of school, grades 1-5	Sept. 3
First day of school, kindergarten	Sept. 9
Staff development day	Oct. 10*
Grading day	Nov. 10*
Veteran's Day holiday	Nov. 11*
No kindergarten	Nov. 20°, 21°
All day conferences	Nov. 24*, 25*
No school	Nov. 26*
Thanksgiving holiday	Nov. 27*, 28*
Winter Break	Dec. 22*—Jan. 2*
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday	Jan. 19*
Staff development day	Jan. 26*
Presidents Day holiday	Feb. 16*
Grading day	Mar. 6*
No kindergarten	Mar. 18°
All day conferences	Mar. 19*
No school	Mar. 20*
Spring Break	Mar. 23*—27*
Staff development day	Apr. 27*
Memorial Day holiday	May 25*
Last day of school (subject to change if inclement weather or other closure)	June 9

\* No school for all elementary grades.

° No school for kindergarteners. All other grades attend school.

Calendars may change. Confirm closure dates with your school.

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