

How can I help my child at home?

Reading & Writing

- Provide time and space for your child to read independently, free from distractions such as television/video games.
- Ask your child what topics, events, or activities he or she likes. Then look for books, magazines, or other materials about those topics that would motivate your child to read.
- Read and discuss books, articles or internet stories together by using websites found on Manchester K-8 Resource Page.
- Have your child write letters and/or cards to family and friends, telling about an important event in their life, recent trip, or something important to them. Include pictures or graphics to make this a fun activity.
- Use technology to help build your child's interest in reading by using several websites where students can read books or articles online.

Mathematics

- Play math games with your child. For example, "I'm thinking of two numbers whose product is between 20 and 30. How many pairs can you think of that would answer this problem?" Have your child explain the solutions. How does your child know that all the number pairs have been identified?
- Encourage your child to write or describe numbers in different ways. For example, "What are some different ways to make 1450?" $1450 = 1 \text{ thousand}, 4 \text{ hundreds}, 5 \text{ tens}, \text{ and } 0 \text{ ones}, \text{ or } 1000 + 450, \text{ or } 14 \text{ hundreds and } 50 \text{ ones}.$
- Use everyday objects to allow your child to explore the concept of fractions. For example, use measuring cups to have your child demonstrate how many $\frac{1}{3}$'s are in a whole, how many $\frac{1}{4}$ cups you need to make $1\frac{1}{4}$ cups, and how many times you have to refill a $\frac{1}{2}$ cup measure to make $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups.
- Reinforce fact fluency by using math websites, found on the Manchester K-8 Resource Page.
- Play board games (like Monopoly) and dominoes (multiplication dominoes) to practice multi-digit fluency within adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing.

Manchester Public Schools

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Office of the Superintendent: (860) 647-3441

Office of Curriculum & Instruction: (860) 647-3447

Pupil Personnel Services: (860) 647-3448

<http://www.mpspride.org>

Bowers Elementary School

141 Princeton Street, Manchester, CT 06042
(860) 647-3313

Buckley Elementary School

250 Vernon Street, Manchester, CT 06042
(860) 647-3302

Highland Park Elementary School

397 Porter Street, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 647-3430

Keeney Elementary School

179 Keeney Street, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 647-3354

Martin Elementary School

140 Dartmouth Road, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 647-3367

Robertson Elementary School

65 North School Street, Manchester, CT 06042
(860) 647-3372

Verplanck Elementary School

126 Olcott Street, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 647-3383

Waddell Elementary School

163 Broad Street, Manchester, CT 06042
(860) 647-3392

Washington Elementary School

94 Cedar Street, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 647-3332

Elisabeth M. Bennet Academy

1151 Main Street, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 647-3571

Illing Middle School

227 East Middle Turnpike, Manchester, CT 06042
(860) 647-3400

Manchester High School

134 East Middle Turnpike, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 647-3521

Bentley Alternative Education

134 East Middle Turnpike, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 647-3342

Manchester Regional Academy

665 Wetherell Street, Manchester, CT 06040
(860) 647-3495

Manchester Preschool Center

60 Washington Street, Manchester, CT 06042
(860) 647-3502



A Parent Guide to District Curriculum



Grade 3

Adapted from Council of Great City Schools' Parent Roadmaps
<http://www.cgcs.org>

Initiatives and Changes

What are the Common Core State Standards?

The Common Core State Standards, adopted by Connecticut's State Board of Education in 2010, provide teachers, students and families with expectations of what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. These standards are designed to ensure that students graduate from high school and are prepared to meet the demands of college and the workforce.

What are the Common Core Shifts for English Language Arts and Mathematics?

English Language Arts:

- Regular independent reading using challenging fiction and non-fiction pieces.
- Effectively communicating (writing/speaking), especially arguing an idea or opinion supported by evidence.
- Applying reading skills to acquire knowledge of the world through non-fiction text.

Mathematics:

- Students are to learn more, but about fewer topics.
- Students will be instructed in highly rigorous topics.
- Students will be given instruction, practice and time to more deeply understand these topics.
- Knowledge and skills are strengthened within each grade and from grade to grade.
- Students will show their work, explain their thinking and defend their answers.

What is the Smarter Balanced Assessment?

The Smarter Balanced Assessment is Connecticut's new state test to assess student's learning of the Connecticut Core Standards. This test is taken on the computer during the spring in the areas of Mathematics and English Language Arts.

District Workshop Model

Manchester Public Schools is embracing the workshop model in the classroom, starting in the 2014-2015 school year, in grades K-8. Workshop is an approach to teaching major skills (math, writing, reading) in which teachers model concepts and skills, provide structured small group lessons, and allow for independent practice.

WHAT WILL MY CHILD LEARN IN...

English Language Arts

In grade three, children will build important reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills. They will think, talk, and write about what they read in a variety of articles, books, and other texts. In their writing, students will pay more attention to organizing information, developing ideas, and supporting these ideas with facts, details, and reasons. Activities in these areas will include:

Parts of a Story: Reading a wide range of stories (short stories, picture books, chapter books) and describing how the story teaches a lesson; describing characters, events and setting in a story

Non-fiction Texts: Reading texts about history, social studies, or science; answering questions about what they learned by using information from maps or pictures and the text to support their answers

Rules of Spoken and Written English: Grammar; correct punctuation use (commas, quotation marks); proper use of English language

Oral Presentation: Presenting to groups on topics; telling a stories; using relevant facts and details and speaking clearly

Writing: Writing to tell a story, with focus on descriptions and use of dialogue; gathering information from books, articles and online sources to build understanding of a topic; writing pieces to inform on a topic, or defend an opinion

Mathematics

In grade three, your child will continue to build their concept of numbers, and develop an understanding of fractions as numbers. Your child will learn the concepts behind multiplication and division and apply problem-solving skills and strategies for multiplying and dividing numbers up through 100 to solve word problems. Your child will also make connections between the concept of the area of a rectangle and multiplication and addition of whole numbers. Activities in these areas will include:

Addition and Subtraction: Adding and subtracting within 1,000 (3 digit numbers); conceptual understanding as well as quick recall for fact fluency

Multiplication and Division: Multiplying and dividing within 100 (2 digit numbers); conceptual understanding as well as quick recall for fact fluency

Word Problems: Representing and solving two-step word problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, division; measuring and estimating intervals of time, liquid, volumes and masses of objects

Measurement and Data: Understanding area of an object (length times width); relating the measurement of area to multiplication and division; measuring weights and volumes; representing and interpreting data

Fractions: Understanding fractions as numbers; identifying a fraction as a number on a number line; comparing the size of two fractions; expressing whole numbers as fractions and identifying fractions that are equal to whole numbers (for example, recognizing that $\frac{3}{1}$ and 3 are the same number)