

K-5 Parent Handbook 2017-2018



DeSoto County Schools

Every Student. Every Employee. Every School.

#TeamDCS

Grading and Promotion Grades K and 1

Students in kindergarten and first grade receive a standards-based report card. The DeSoto County Schools' report cards align to the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards for English/Language Arts and Mathematics. Teachers utilize performance levels to indicate how students are working towards the mastery of the individual standards.

Standards-Based

The goal of standards-based grading is to improve student achievement by focusing instruction on the essential standards. Standards-based grading and reporting provides clear communication to parents, teachers, and administrators as to what each student knows and is able to do.

Standards-Based	Traditional Grading
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on learning goals with a grade for each • Criterion-referenced and proficiency-based using a limited number of levels with criteria and targets known to all • Includes individual evidence only • Focuses on formative and summative assessments for grading • Emphasizes the most recent evidence of learning • Discusses all aspects with students 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on one grade per subject • Based on a percentage system; often norm-referenced; criteria not clear • Include(s) group-work scores • All scores are included in student's grade • Includes every score regardless of when it was collected; scores are averaged • Decisions are made about grading and then announced to the students

The K-1 Grade Reports include the following levels of performance:

4	Exceeding the Standard The student consistently exceeds grade level standards and expectations.
3	Mastering the Standard The student consistently meets grade level standards and expectations.
2	Progressing Toward the Standard The student is progressing toward grade level standards and expectations.
1	Not Meeting the Standard The student is not meeting grade level standards and expectations. <i>Additional instruction, practice, and support is necessary to move toward grade level standards and expectations.</i>

Please keep in mind that mastery is an end-of-the-year goal for English Language Arts and Mathematics. Some math standards may be mastered each grading period, however a majority of standards are intended for end-of-the-year mastery.

Grading and Promotion Grades 2-5

Students in second through fifth grade receive traditional A – F grades. Report cards will be printed from an electronic form. Teachers record grades that are based on assignments that align to the Mississippi College and Career Readiness Standards for English/Language Arts and Mathematics.

Reporting Periods and Grades

There are four reporting periods throughout the school year in which a report card will be sent home. Grades will be reported using the following scale:

Literacy Grading Components: 50%- Reading Comprehension 40%- Writing 10%- Performance Tasks	Mathematics Grading Components: 60%- Assessments 40%- Class
Grading Scale A= 90-100 B= 80-89 C= 70-79 D= 65-69 F= 64 and below	

The online PowerSchool, ParentPortal offers parents the opportunity to monitor student assignments on a regular basis. To create an account visit www.desotopowerschool.com/public.

District Progress Reports, Grades K-5:

A quarterly district progress report will communicate to parents, the student’s progress toward attainment of the standards. Progress reports will be sent home each nine weeks on the following dates:

1 st Nine Weeks	September 5, 2017
2 nd Nine Weeks	November 7, 2017
3 rd Nine Weeks	February 6, 2018
4 th Nine Weeks	April 20, 2018

What if my child is struggling?

DeSoto County Schools emphasizes a three-tiered model of instruction. If you notice your child has trouble understanding and his/her grades being to slip, you should contact your school's interventionist immediately. All students have the opportunity to receive supplemental instruction that targets a specific deficit. Supplement instruction can vary from 3-5 days per week, 30-45 minutes per session. Any student is eligible to receive additional instruction once a deficit is recognized. A student does not have to have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) to receive additional instruction.

Family/Home Connections:

Learning does not end in the classroom. Children need help and support at home to succeed. Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, so that he/she can concentrate distraction free. Each grade level has suggested ways in which you can support your child's learning.

Parent Resources

Do you want to know how you can help your child in math and language arts throughout the year? Scan on the QR code below to be directed to our webpage just for parents!

Math Corner

- Family Guides
- Parent Letters with Teaching Videos
- Mississippi College & Career Readiness Standards and Scaffolding Documents
- Favorite websites and apps to support student learning



Math Parent Letters will be sent home each nine weeks (grades K-2), each unit (3rd grade), or each chapter (grades 4-5) to highlight content and skills being covered in class.

Language Arts Corner

- Family Guides
- Mississippi College & Career Readiness Standards and Scaffolding Documents
- Literacy-Based Promotion Act Information and Video



Kindergarten

English Language Arts/Literacy

- Understand basic print features in texts
- Ask and answer questions
- Identify main ideas in informational text
- Retell familiar stories; Identify characters, settings, and events
- Use standard English conventions and usage
- Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and drawing to write stories, opinion pieces, and informative pieces

Mathematics

- Count orally to 100 by ones and tens
- Count objects to tell “how many?” in different arrangements
- Read, write, and represent numbers
- Break apart numbers up to 19
- Add and subtract in many ways
- Add and subtract to solve word problems
- Correctly name two and three-dimensional shapes

Science/Social Studies

This year students will begin to experience the new Science standards. These standards will focus on S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, English, Arts, and Mathematics) practices. The theme for kindergarten is *Changes in the Natural World*. Students will have the opportunity to explore the environment in which they live.

We will continue to teach the current Social Studies standards that focus on social relationships to bridge their home to school life.

Promotion Requirements:

In order to be promoted to first grade, students must score a 3 or higher in a minimum of:

- 20 of the 29 language arts standards
- 15 of the 22 complete math standards (These standards can be found on the kindergarten report card and are shaded.)

Family/Home Connections:

Here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

- Name and print upper and lower case letters
- Read short sight word sentences
- Read to and with your child on a daily basis
- Visit the local library or bookstore
- Encourage creative play and thinking games – Lego, K’NEX, STEM Toys, Checkers
- Use manipulatives such as macaroni, beads, buttons, or cereal to solve math problems
- Practice counting while doing various activities- driving in the car, jumping rope, waiting in line at a store, etc. Challenge your children to start counting at a given number, such as 13 or 28
- Find numbers on common objects such a license plates, highway signs, price tags, clothing, etc.
- Put items such as socks, stickers, toys, food, etc. into groups and talk about which group has more or less items using the terms greater than and less than

1st Grade

English Language Arts/Literacy

- Understand basic print features in texts
- Ask and answer questions about key details in text
- Identify main topic and retell key details in informational text
- Retell familiar stories and share lessons
- Identify who is talking in stories
- Discuss difference in stories and informational texts
- Describe people, ideas, and events in informational text
- Use text features (pictures, charts) to learn more information
- Use standard English conventions and usage
- Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and drawing to write stories, opinion pieces, and informative pieces

Mathematics

- Count, read, write numerals, and represent a number of objects
- Understand the two digits of a 2-digit number represent tens and ones (place value)
- Identify the days of the week and U.S. coins and their value
- Add and subtract using multiple strategies
- Add and subtract to solve word problems
- Tell and write time to the hour and half-hour
- Organize, represent, analyze, and interpret data in bar and picture graphs
- Partition circles and rectangles into two and four equal shares

Promotion Requirements:

In order to be promoted to first grade, students must score a 3 or higher in a minimum of:

- 20 of the 30 language arts standards
- 16 of the 23 complete math standards (These standards can be found on the kindergarten report card and are shaded.)

Science/Social Studies

This year students will begin to experience the new Science standards. These standards will focus on S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, English, Arts, and Mathematics) practices. The theme for first grade is *Discovering Patterns and Constructing Explanations*. Students will have the opportunity to explore patterns observed in the natural environment.

We will continue to teach the current Social Studies standards that help children understand family life and structure.

Family/Home Connections:

Here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

- Read to and with your child on a daily basis
- Encourage your child to read 10-15 minutes
- Visit the local library or bookstore
- Encourage your child to write: thank you notes, journal entries, create stories, etc.
- Encourage creative play and thinking games – Lego, Robots, K’NEX, STEM Toys, Checkers
- Find numbers in newspapers, magazines, or on items around the house
- Use manipulatives such as macaroni, beads, buttons, or cereal to solve math problems
- Put different items into groups and talk about which group has more or less items using the terms greater than and less than
- Practice counting forwards and backwards starting at any given number within 120 while doing various activities-driving in the car, jumping rope, waiting in line, etc.

2nd Grade

English Language Arts/Literacy

- Ask and answer questions about key details in text to show understanding
- Recount stories and talk about the central message or lesson learned
- Describe how characters deal with problems
- Identify main topic and retell key details in different paragraphs of informational text
- Describe how pictures add meaning to text
- Read text fluently to support comprehension
- Write opinion, informational, and narrative pieces of text
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar when writing (printing, cursive, keyboarding)

Mathematics

- Add and subtract using multiple strategies
- Add and subtract to solve one and two-step word problems
- Understand the three-digits of a 3-digit number represent hundreds, tens, and ones (place value)
- Measure the length of objects using different units
- Build, draw, and analyze two and three-dimensional shapes

Science/Social Studies

This year students will begin to experience the new Science standards. These standards will focus on S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, English, Arts, and Mathematics) practices. The theme for second grade is *Systems, Order, and Organization*. Students will have the opportunity to explore plants and animals according to their physical characteristics and recognize that living things are part of a larger system.

We will continue to teach the current Social Studies standards that focus on learning the importance of living in social groups, such as the neighborhood. Through the study of neighborhoods, students learn basic human relationships such as sharing and caring, helping others in time of need, and living harmoniously with others.

Family/Home Connections:

Here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

- Read to and with your child on a daily basis
- Encourage your child to read 10-15 minutes
- Visit the local library or bookstore
- Listen to audio books
- Encourage your child to write: thank you notes, journals entries, create stories, etc.
- Encourage creative play and thinking games – Lego, Robots, K’NEX, STEM Toys, Checkers
- Skip count when counting groups of nickels and dimes
- Use manipulatives such as macaroni, beads, buttons, or cereal to solve math problems
- Count in a pattern while doing a repeated task-stirring pancake batter, brushing hair, putting away groceries, walking
- Survey various family members about their favorite sport, color, ice cream flavor, or pizza topping. Create a bar graph to show the data.

3rd Grade

English Language Arts/Literacy

- Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding; refer to specific parts of text
- Recount stories and talk about the central message or lesson learned
- Describe characters traits, feelings and motivations contribute to their actions
- Identify main topic and retell key details support the main idea
- Use information gained from pictures and text features
- Read text fluently (minimum of 60 words per minute) to support comprehension
- Write opinion, informational, and narrative pieces of text
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar when writing (printing, cursive, keyboarding)

Mathematics

- Multiply and divide within 100
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide to solve two-step word problems
- Measure and estimate mass and liquid volumes
- Understand fractions in multiple ways and with multiple models- number line, area models, etc.
- Compare two fractions and understand fraction equivalence
- Find area using multiple strategies- counting, tiling, area formula (multiplication), distributive property, etc.

Science/Social Studies

This year students will begin to experience the new Science standards. These standards will focus on S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, English, Arts, and Mathematics) practices. The theme for third is *Interactions within an Environment*. Students will have the opportunity to explore various environments in which they can use science and engineering practices for obtaining, recording, charting, and analyzing data.

We will continue to teach the current Social Studies standards that focus on the social life of the community. Social functions such as production, transportation, distribution, communication, and government.

Promotion Requirements:

In order to be promoted to fourth grade, students must have a minimum of 65% for ELA and Mathematics as well as pass (score a minimum of a 2) on the Mississippi Third Grade Gateway Assessment (three opportunities are provided to pass state assessment).

Family/Home Connections:

Here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

- Encourage your child to read high interest text on a daily basis
- Practice cursive writing and reading
- Encourage your child to write: thank you notes, journal entries, create stories, etc.
- Encourage creative play and thinking games – Lego, Robots, K’NEX, STEM Toys, Chess
- Use manipulatives such as macaroni, beads, buttons, or cereal to solve math problems
- Locate numbers in catalogs or newspapers, and then practice rounding them to the nearest tens and hundreds
- Make arrays out of household items (e.g., pennies, beans, blocks)
- Sort coins according to type, count the number of coins and then multiply to find the total value of pennies (x1), nickels (x5), dimes (x10) and quarters (x25)

4th Grade

English Language Arts/Literacy

- Refer to specific parts of the text when explaining and making inferences
- Determine the theme of a story; summarize
- Describe how characters feelings, thoughts and actions using specific details in the text
- Identify main topic and retell key details support the main idea; summarize
- Describe the text structure (chronological, cause/effect, comparison, etc.)
- Use information gained from pictures and text features
- Write opinion, informational, and narrative pieces of text
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar when writing (printing, cursive, keyboarding)

Mathematics

- Add, subtract, and multiply multi-digit whole numbers
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide to solve multi-step word problems
- Add and subtract fractions with the same denominator
- Add, subtract, and multiply fractions
- Understand equivalent fractions and decimals
- Measure angles and find unknown angles

Science/Social Studies

This year students will begin to experience the new Science standards. These standards will focus on S.T.E.A.M. (Science, Technology, English, Arts, and Mathematics) practices. The theme for fourth grade is *Energy and Systems*. Students will have the opportunity to observe, research, and conduct investigations to discover patterns related to energy and change in the world around them.

We will continue to teach the current Social Studies standards that focus on Mississippi as an area of the earth and a political region. Mississippi will be studied in various contexts, including physical features, climate, agricultural production, industrial development, and economic productivity.

Family/Home Connections:

Here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

- Encourage your child to read high interest text on a daily basis
- Practice cursive writing and reading
- Encourage your child to write: thank you notes, journals entries, create stories, etc.
- Encourage creative play and thinking games – Lego, Robots, K’NEX, STEM Toys, Chess
- Find numbers and write them in expanded form
- Draw pictures and make models of numbers
- Sort coins according to type, count the number of coins and then multiply to find the total value of pennies (x1), nickels (x5), dimes (x10) and quarters (x25)
- Draw different shapes. Divide them into different fractions
- Draw shapes. Identify their angles as obtuse, acute, and right angles
- Use a menu to compare money
- Identify decimals in a newspaper or catalog
- Identify real world angles as acute, right, or obtuse
- Explore the perimeter and area of a cereal/cracker box

5th Grade

English Language Arts/Literacy

- Refer to specific parts of the text when explaining and making inferences
- Determine the theme of a story; summarize
- Compare and contrast two or more characters and how they deal with challenges using specific details in the text
- Identify two or more main topics, explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text
- Compare and contrast the structure of a text (chronological, cause/effect, comparison, etc.)
- Use information gained from text features and digital sources to locate information
- Write opinion, informational, and narrative pieces of text
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar when writing (printing, cursive, keyboarding)

Science/Social Studies

We will continue to teach the current Science standards that focus on the structure and function of living things, reproduction and heredity, behavior, populations and ecosystems, diversity, and adaptations of organisms. Students also investigate properties and changes of properties in matter, motions, forces, transfer of energy, structure of the Earth's system, Earth's history, and Earth in the solar system. Fifth graders will be assessed, Mississippi Science Test- Second Edition, at the end of the year on this content.

We will continue to teach the current Social Studies standards that focuses on collective heritage of the people of the United States History- important historical events, actors, and ideas that served to characterize the period before earliest encounters of explorers to the "new world" through the period of European colonization of North America.

Mathematics

- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide multi-digit whole numbers and decimals
- Understand and use the place value system of decimals (place value)
- Add and subtract unlike fractions, multiply, divide fractions
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions to solve word problems
- Understand volume using multiple strategies as well as solve volume word problems
- Graph points on a coordinate plane to solve problems

Family/Home Connections:

Here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

- Encourage your child to read high interest text on a daily basis
- Practice cursive writing and reading
- Encourage your child to write: thank you notes, journal entries, create stories, etc.
- Encourage creative play and thinking games – Lego, Robots, K'NEX, STEM Toys, Chess
- Estimate and find sums, differences, products, and quotients of items at the store, in restaurants, and using the newspaper
- Find examples of fractions around the house or neighborhood. Add, subtract, multiply, divide or simplify the fractions that you find.
- Identify different plane and solid figures in your environment
- Find the volume of real-world objects in your home. Compare the estimated volume of a carton or bottle of liquid (such as $\frac{1}{2}$ gallon juice or milk or two liter bottle of lemonade) in cubic inches or centimeters to its stated volume in ounces or milliliters.