

PARENT AND STUDENT GUIDE

Kindergarten Concepts and Skills



Prepared by:
Department of Curriculum and Instruction

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parents,

Welcome to another wonderful year of teaching and learning in Norfolk Public Schools! We are excited about joining with you to educate all students to be successful, productive contributors to society. We strive for all students to become powerfully literate. We have developed this parent guide to serve as a tool for you to stay involved in the learning process, and to assist you at home in strengthening your child's knowledge and skills in the core academic content.

This guide contains the state and local standards of learning in English, mathematics, science and history/social science. At the end of the guide, helpful hints for home are provided for you to use to enrich, enhance and strengthen your child's knowledge and skills in the various contents. Additionally, a calendar of important school dates is provided on the NPS website to help you keep track of holidays, early release days, parent conference day, and other important information.

Please use this guide at home as you partner with us in delivering a rigorous academic program to enable all students to become powerfully literate. If you need any assistance or additional ideas on how to use this guide or if you need other assistance with your child's education please contact your school. Finally, I look forward to working with you and the staff of Norfolk Public Schools to provide powerful teaching and learning opportunities to ensure the academic success of all of our students.

Sincerely,



Dr. Melinda J. Boone
Superintendent of Schools

What We Believe

The mission of Norfolk Public Schools, the cornerstone of a proudly diverse community, is to ensure that all students maximize their academic potential, develop skills for lifelong learning and are successful contributors to a global society, as distinguished by:

- Courageous advocacy for all students
- Family and community investment
- Data-driven personalized learning
- Strong and effective leadership teams
- Shared responsibility for teaching and learning
- Access to rigorous and rewarding college and career readiness opportunities

Board & Division Priorities

- Ensure full accreditation
- Increase academic achievement of all students
- Improve climate, safety & attendance
- Become a School Board of Distinction
- Promote Norfolk Public Schools to reflect outstanding accomplishments of staff, teachers and students
- Develop and coordinate a capital improvement plan for facilities and technology to enhance teaching and learning
- Attract, retain, and help to develop strong academic families and highly qualified teachers and staff

ENGLISH

In **ORAL LANGUAGE**, your child will:

- Participate in listening and speaking activities that include stories, poems, rhymes, songs and dramatics.
- Expand vocabulary to describe, name, and question with content area vocabulary, number words, nouns, verbs, and adjectives.
- Build oral communication skills to make requests, follow directions, and use questions.
- Differentiate between spoken sentences, words, rhymes and syllables.
- Identify, segment, and blend units of speech sounds including rhymes, beginning and ending sounds, and syllables.
- Speak in complete sentences to include subject, verb, and object.
- Use words to describe and name people, actions, locations, size, color, and shape.

In **READING/LITERATURE**, your child will:

- Understand how print is organized and read (i.e., concepts about print, directionality, and 1-1 matching).
- Locate book title, front cover, and back cover.
- Explain author and illustrator.
- Identify uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Read and retell own writing, names, signs, logos and 30 high frequency words.
- Expand vocabulary through listening and discussing the meaning of words through a variety of text read aloud.
- Demonstrate comprehension of fictional texts (i.e., make connections, predict, and ask and answer questions).
- Retell familiar stories with story language (i.e., identify beginning, middle and end and discuss characters, setting and events).
- Demonstrate comprehension of nonfictional text (i.e., use & identify text features such as pictures, titles and headings to identify the topic and make predictions).

In **WRITING**, your child will:

- Print the uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet independently
- Print first and last names.
- Write to communicate ideas for a variety of purposes.
- Differentiate pictures from writing.
- Use pictures and phonetically spelled words to write experiences or events.
- Read, explain, and share own writing.
- Use resources to write (i.e., word walls, books, anchor charts and personal dictionaries).
- Use available technology for reading and writing (i.e., computers, Smartboards, CD's, and software).

MATH

In **NUMBER SENSE**, your child will:

- Compare two groups (of 10 or fewer objects) as having more, fewer, or the same number of objects.
- Count, select, and write the number of items in a group (0 - 15 concrete items).
- Create multiple representations of a number. (3 red cubes and 4 yellow cubes is the same as 1 green cube and 6 blue cubes).
- Group 100 or fewer objects into sets of 5's and 10's using concrete objects and a hundreds chart.
- Count forward to 100 and backward from 10.

In **COMPUTATION AND ESTIMATION**, your child will:

- Add and subtract numbers up to 10 using concrete objects.

In **MEASUREMENT**, your child will:

- Recognize penny, nickel, dime, and quarter.
- Choose the appropriate tool to measure length, weight, time, and temperature.
- Use a calendar to name and order the days of the week and months of the year.
- Tell time to the hour using an analog or digital clock.

- Compare two objects/events using direct comparisons or nonstandard units of measurement.

In **GEOMETRY**, your child will:

- Identify, describe, and draw plane figures (circle, triangle, square, and rectangle).
- Identify, describe, and make solid figures (rectangular solids, cubes, cylinders, cones, pyramids, and spheres).
- Describe location of one object relative to another.
- Identify plane figures regardless of position or orientation (circle, triangle, square, and rectangle).

In **PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS**, your child will:

- Display objects and information using object graphs, picture graphs and charts.

In **PATTERNS, FUNCTIONS, AND ALGEBRA**, your child will:

- Sort and classify objects according to similar attributes (size, shape and color).
- Identify, describe and extend a repeating pattern with objects, sound and movement.

SCIENCE

In **INVESTIGATION, REASONING AND LOGIC**, your child will:

- Use senses to observe common objects and to learn about one's surroundings.
- Use nonstandard units to measure common objects.
- Describe and sort objects on the basis of color, shape, size, and position, orally and pictorially.
- Make predictions and develop questions from observations.
- Recognize unexpected results in an activity.

In **FORCE, MOTION AND ENERGY**, your child will:

- Investigate magnets to learn about attraction/non-attraction, push/pull, attract/repel, and metals/nonmetals.

- Describe useful applications for magnets.
- Explain how an object made of iron is affected by a magnet.

In **MATTER**, your child will:

- Describe objects in terms of their physical properties such as colors, shapes and forms, textures and feel, size and weight, position and speed.
- Investigate water as a solid, liquid, and a gas.
- Observe that the natural flow of water is downhill.
- Recognize that some materials float in water while others sink.

In **LIFE PROCESSES**, your child will:

- Understand that all things can be classified as living or nonliving.
- Understand that living things have unique characteristics that distinguish them from nonliving things including growth, movement, response to their environment, and having offspring.
- Recognize that plants and animals live and die as part of a life cycle.

- Understand that living things change as they grow and have basic needs such as food, air, and water to survive.
- Observe that offspring of plants and animals are similar, but not identical to their parents.

In **EARTH/SPACE SYSTEMS**, your child will:

- Investigate how shadows occur in nature when sunlight is blocked by an object.
- Understand that shadows can be produced by blocking artificial light sources.

In **EARTH PATTERNS, CYCLES AND CHANGE**, your child will:

- Focus on understanding that basic patterns are found in weather; in natural objects such as seeds, cones and leaves; in the growth of plants and animals; and in daily routines.
- Recognize that natural and human-made changes occur over time.

- Understand that changes can be observed and measured.

In **RESOURCES**, your child will:

- Identify materials and objects that can be reused, recycled and conserved.
- Investigate how to conserve water and energy at home and school to ensure resources are available for future use.

HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCES

In **HISTORICAL CONNECTIONS**, your child will:

- Recognize that history describes events and people of other times and places.
- Identify examples of past events in legends, stories, and historical accounts.
- Describe everyday life in the present and in the past and begin to recognize that things change over time.

In **ECONOMIC UNDERSTANDING**, your child will:

- Match simple descriptions of work that people do with the names of those jobs.
- Recognize that people make choices because they cannot have everything they want.
- Explain that people work to earn money to buy the things they want.

In **CITIZENSHIP**, your child will:

- Demonstrate that being a good citizen involves taking turns and sharing, taking care of personal belongings and respecting what belongs to others, and following rules and understanding the consequences of breaking rules.
- Recognize the American flag and the Pledge of Allegiance and know that the President is the leader of the United States.

In **GEOGRAPHIC AWARENESS**, your child will:

- Describe the relative location of people, places and things by using positional words.
- Use simple maps and globes

- Develop the awareness that a map is a drawing of a place to show where things are located, and that a globe is a round model of the Earth.
- Describe places referenced in stories and real-life situations.
- Locate land and water features.

In **HISTORY/SOCIAL SCIENCE SKILLS**, your child will:

- Use clues to predict what might happen next.
- Identify examples of possible cause and effect.
- Follow oral and written directions

Helpful Hints for Home

English

- Read as much as you can with your child (read a variety of texts).
- Discuss stories.
- Listen to your child tell stories.
- Use the library as frequently as possible.
- Ask your child to dictate or write for real purposes such as grocery lists or thank you notes.
- Encourage your child to keep a journal.
- Share conversations with your child about interests and ideas each day.
- Recognize and celebrate successes.

Math

- Cut out a variety of numbers from the newspaper and have your child put the numbers in sequence from smallest to largest or largest to smallest.

- Have your child estimate the length of a wall, a table, or any other object. Then measure it to verify the estimation.
- Encourage your child to look for patterns in the environment (colors, numbers, shapes, etc.). Have your child tell you about the pattern and what it was that made it a pattern.
- Have your child help you when cooking. Let your child help you read the recipe and talk about what the measurements mean. Let your child experiment with a variety of measuring devices (for example using a 1/4 cup measure and finding out how many it would take to fill a 1 cup measure).
- Have your child sort and classify a variety of household items (such as buttons, screws, bottle caps, keys, rocks, noodles, silverware, socks, etc.). Ask your child why he/she sorted the items in a certain way (was it by size, shape, color, etc.). Have your child compare and contrast the different amounts of items in each group using words like more, less, larger, smaller, long, short, etc.

Science

- Use terms that indicate direction, such as up/down and left/right.
- Use terms that indicate location, such as behind and next to.
- Use terms that indicate distance, such as near/nearest and far/farthest.
- Help your child name and describe the seasons of the year.
- Ask your child to identify objects around the house that have magnets in them and why the magnets are helpful.
- Ask your child to describe objects in terms of their color, shape, and texture.
- Ask your child to explain why shadows occur.
- Ask your child to identify the basic patterns found in weather as it occurs.

History/ Social Science

- Provide opportunities to be responsible (e.g. feed the dog, set the table).
- Discuss community rules (e.g. traffic signs, pool safety).
- Discuss with your child the meaning of various holidays and their relationship to our lives today.
- Make maps and globes available to your child and use every opportunity to refer to them.





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