

Moving Up:

Is my student ready?

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This newsletter outlines some of the basic expectations for students as they enter each grade. It's not an all-inclusive list, but we hope you'll gain a basic understanding of what's expected of your student from one grade level to another. If you have questions, please contact your student's teacher.

Emergent learners: entering 1st grade

Emergent learners should be able to identify individual sounds in words, chunk and blend words, and use basic strategies to solve unknown words. They should know at least 50 of the most common sight words automatically. When reading, they should be able to recall details, include literary elements in sequencing a story, make predictions, identify the main idea, and know the basic genres of books (fairy tale, fiction, nonfiction, etc.)

In writing, students should be able to write on a topic with proper spacing and end punctuation. They should be able to use phonics rules to help them spell what they want to write.

Emergent learners should be able to count and identify numbers to 100, write numbers correctly, add and subtract single digits, identify basic coin values and begin understanding the concept of time.

Beginning learners: entering 2nd grade

Beginning learners entering second grade should be able to rhyme words and segment them into phonemes. They should use word attack skills and phonics rules independently to decode words. Beginning learners should be able to identify the main idea and relevant details of a text, use the text to answer literal and inferential questions, retell a story in sequence, and summarize text they hear or read themselves.

Beginning writers come into second grade using the characteristics of a Developing writer on the Six Traits rubric. These include writing at least

one paragraph with organization and sentence fluency, using basic conventions. They should be able to plan their writing and focus on a topic. By this point, most sight words should be spelled correctly in writing.

In math, students should know addition and subtraction facts to 18, count on and back with/without using a number line, tell time to the half hour and to the hour, and count groups of mixed coins to a dollar. They should also be able to choose the correct operation to use in solving simple story problems.

Transitional learners: entering 3rd grade

Learners at this stage are focusing more of their energy on *reading to learn* instead of *learning to read*. They should monitor themselves when they read self-correct when necessary. They summarize, retell, and restate what they read in fiction and non-fiction material. They

read informational text for a specific purpose and can organize that information. They read between 75-107 words correct per minute.

Transitional learners plan their writing and maintain focus on a topic throughout a 2-3 paragraph piece. They can elaborate at least

one of their ideas and can use resources to spell words correctly.

Students should know addition/subtraction facts to 20, add and subtract 2-digit numbers with/without regrouping, and skip count. They should be able to demonstrate understanding of basic

money skills (including making change), tell time to the quarter-hour, measure using customary and metric system, and read graphs

Proficient/Maturing learners: entering 4th and 5th grades

Proficient and Maturing learners are fluent readers (110-140 wcpm) who use higher level thinking strategies to understand what they read. They should be able to monitor themselves when reading and apply fix-up strategies independently when needed. They identify author's purpose for writing and distinguish between fact and opinion. They should be able to identify the main idea and relevant details in fiction and non-fiction texts. They use a variety of resources to build their vocabulary and gather information. They should be able to understand the meaning of metaphors, similes and idioms.

In writing, these students should be able to plan and write a 4-5 paragraph essay that is focused on a topic. Transitional words are used throughout and conventions are applied correctly. These learners demonstrate a higher level of word choice. These learners will write a variety of genres, including journals, narratives, reports, compare/ contrast papers, persuasive letters, and biographical sketches.

Proficient and Maturing learners add a series of numbers and subtract with regrouping. They demonstrate rapid recall of addition and subtraction facts and know their multiplication tables to the twelves. They can

estimate, read and create various kinds of graphs, and demonstrate algebraic thinking skills. They know fractional parts and use customary and metric systems to calculate area, perimeter, and volume.

What can parents and families do?

Communicate with your student's teacher! Ask for ideas to use with your student over the summer to help him/her be ready for the new school year. Visit the library often; encourage your student to write about what he/she does each day of the summer. Count change from the ice cream truck. You play an important role in helping your student meet expectations and avoid summer learning loss!

We're on the Web!

See us at:

<http://soeagles.pasco.k12.fl.us>