Your child is starting the elementary school journey, and you may have a lot of questions about how they will do in a classroom group, whether they’ll make friends, or how they’ll manage in a new environment. Are they ready? Will their teachers know how to make them feel comfortable, calm or challenged? This is a time for letting go and helping your child learn to be part of a new community. With the help of their teachers, their classmates, and you, they will develop the skills they need to read, write, speak, count, solve problems, ask questions, and learn about the physical and social worlds. This year you should work closely with your child’s teachers to understand the skills and habits they need to grow as a learner.

Report cards may be brand new to you, but your child will be getting one about every three months to report the progress they are making in each term. We call the terms trimesters. It will be important for you to learn about the expectations on them. Kindergarten teachers and families should talk together about Social-Emotional Skills and Learning Readiness, as well as goals for learning in English/Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education and Arts. Each area has a section on the report card.

When you share about your child with teachers and school staff, you can learn how your child interacts in a group, with adults, and with children different from them. Teachers gain ideas about how to help your child by hearing from you about their strengths and challenges. We want to work together to help your child succeed!

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) helps children manage emotions, set and achieve goals, express empathy, establish positive relationships, and make decisions. These skills are important for learning in school communities.

SEL skills are embedded in all subject areas so students learn and practice them throughout their school day. Teachers emphasize identifying strengths, feelings and needs, seeking to understand others, building cooperative relationships, critical thinking, decision making, following safety standards, and working through challenges. These skills are evaluated on elementary report cards.

Teachers understand that children come to school with different skills, knowledge, and experiences. They use the words Strength (S), Developing (D), and Emerging (E) to describe students’ SEL growth.

Strength = consistently uses skills across subjects and settings
Developing = uses skills in most subjects and settings
Emerging = beginning to use skills in some subjects and settings

Questions? Please visit seattleschools.org/academics/curriculum for more info on any subject area.
**What Are Kindergarteners Learning in Math?**

**Fluent** in math means “fast and accurate.” A goal for your child’s learning is for them to become fluent in their skills so they can move on to more complex mathematics.

In Kindergarten math, students will become fluent in addition and subtraction within 5. They will count out a given number of objects, compare sizes, begin to use equations such as $3+2 = 5$ and $5-2 = 3$, and they’ll identify and describe squares, triangles, circles, rectangles, hexagons, cones, cubes, cylinders, and spheres. Kindergarten standards show by section on the report card:

**Counting and Cardinality** has to do with number names and values, and quantities **Operations and Algebraic Thinking** is about the language, patterns and symbols of math; **Numbers and Operations in Base Ten** relates to the decimal system; **Measurement and Data** is about tracking sizes and amounts; **Geometry** is about shapes and dimensions.

For more information, visit the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction at: [www.k-12.wa.us/parents-families](http://www.k-12.wa.us/parents-families)

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**How Can Families Help Their Students in English/Language Arts?**

**Kindergarten students learn to:**

- Name, print, and determine sounds of all upper and lower-case letters
- Begin to read and understand text and figure out meaning of new words
- Retell what is read, using key details from the text
- Ask questions about their reading
- Describe characters, settings, and events in stories
- Write, draw or dictate to a helper to communicate for different purposes
- Develop writing by adding details
- Take part in classroom conversations about reading and learning

**Encourage reading at home with your child! Read to them or listen to them read every day!**

- Create a reading space that is comfortable and free from distraction
- Ask your child to tell you about their reading (questions they have, a favorite character, what they learned)
- Encourage your child to create stories with writing and/or drawings
- Go to the library and find books that your child would like to read

Remember, when your child is learning to read, listening to them and reading together are important ways to show that you value their learning!
What’s New in Elementary Science?  http://www.nsta.org/parents

This is a time for transition in science education, with teaching and learning focused on three key areas in Washington State Science Learning Standards:

1) Science/Engineering Practices used by professionals to explain the world or solve problems
2) Core Ideas that include fundamental scientific knowledge
3) Crosscutting Concepts frame scientific thinking across life, earth/space, physical sciences.

Your child’s report card shows Performance Expectations, for what students should be able to do by the end of a unit. The three dimensions are woven into each Performance Expectation.

Engage in Science at Home!!

Get outside together, taking time to notice, appreciate, and wonder about the natural world.

- Ask open-ended questions and take time to encourage thoughtful answers: “Tell me about what you made.” “What do you think caused the change?” “Can you think of a different way to do it?”
- Observe carefully and notice small details about natural and physical things like shapes in a spider web or types of bread.
- Make predictions and test how things work “How long will an ice cube last on the counter?” “Will it melt faster on another surface?”

• Encourage investigation. Try taking things apart to see how they work - from flowers to old appliances. Don’t worry about putting them back together!
• Let your child teach you by explaining or modelling through drawing, writing, or conversation.
• Challenge your student to argue from evidence. This is not fighting but using facts to explain their thinking. Ask: “How do you know that?” “Why is that so?”

You can support your child’s teacher by volunteering to help with classroom experiences or science related field trips.

Science learning is powerful!

What’s Important About Kindergarten Social Studies?

Social studies is about human relationships and societies. At each grade level, students learn about cultures and communities. In Kindergarten, the classroom community is important. The report card shows two areas of social studies that you and your child can discuss this year:

Civics - Understanding the purpose of rules in the classroom and school community

History - Creating timelines showing events in order (a sequence)

Questions? Please visit seattleschools.org/academics/curriculum for more info on any subject area
PE and Arts are Part of Basic Education Too!

Visual and Performing Arts
Research shows that students with an arts education are more engaged, do better in school, and are more likely to graduate and participate in community life. In Seattle Public Schools, we want every student to receive a comprehensive, predictable arts education during their K-12 years.

Each elementary school offers different arts programs, from possibilities including visual arts, general music, theatre, dance, or instrumental music. Progress report standards come from the Washington State Arts Learning Standards, which focus on aspects of artistic process:

Creating: developing new artistic ideas and work.
Performing: interpreting and presenting artistic ideas / work
Responding: understanding and evaluating meaning in the arts
Connecting: Relating personally to artistic ideas and work

The arts are a core subject!

Physical Education
In physical education, students build movement skills, knowledge, fitness, social well being, and confidence so they can enjoy a healthy, active lifestyle. Seattle Public Schools is committed to providing a quality physical education program to help students develop in these areas.

Our Physical Education (PE) standards are based on motor and movement patterns and skills, as well as concepts like physical literacy, which is the ability, confidence and desire to be physically active for life. PE is an instructional program, which makes it different from recess, free play, recreational sports or athletics. PE teachers work with general education teachers to provide high quality instruction for an average of 100 minutes per week, which is required by Washington State law. Schools organize PE times in different ways, but all students should be learning about their physical selves all year long!

Support the arts at home!
Ask your children what they created today.
Have your child describe what their art is about.
Art is an area children experiment and make mistakes. Ask them to tell you about a “beautiful oops”
Make art together!

Questions? Please visit seattleschools.org/academics/curriculum for more info on any subject area