

Mathematics For Families

You Are Your Child's First Teacher. Learn how to support the goals of Washington's academic standards and why they are important to your child. When schools and families work together as partners, it helps your child achieve academic success!

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Fifth Grade

In fifth grade, students deepen their number sense and strengthen their problem-solving skills. Fifth-graders build a strong foundation with decimals and fractions and practice multiplying and dividing multi-digit numbers. Students connect mathematical ideas, strengthen their reasoning, and prepare to apply math beyond the classroom.



Below is a snapshot of what your student will learn in math this year and how you can support them in school and at home.

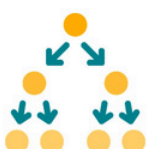
What Fifth-Graders Learn and Do



Use equivalent fractions (fractions that look different but represent the same amount) to add and subtract fractions and solve related word problems.



Add, subtract, and multiply multi-digit whole numbers in ways that make sense to the learner.



Divide whole numbers by two-digit numbers using a variety of operations (multiplication and division) to break problems apart into easier steps.



Use visual models to multiply and divide fractions and decimals.



Understand place value in decimal numbers (to the thousandths place).



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

How to Support Your Fifth-Grader with Math

Do Math at Home

- Explore decimals together by comparing prices at the store, estimating totals, and discussing how the value of digits changes in the tenths, hundredths, and thousandths places.
- Use everyday situations like sharing snacks, money, or time to practice dividing numbers and breaking a problem into manageable parts.
- Use simple visual models to represent problems with decimals or fractions. Encourage your student to match their drawings to their thinking.
- Connect math to real-world contexts like sports stats, distances, cooking, saving money, or planning time to help students see math as useful and meaningful in everyday life.

Talk with Your Student

- Celebrate flexible thinking: Point out moments when your student changes strategies or uses a new approach to solve a problem.
- Let your student explain or teach you a math idea they learned in class. Encourage your student to share ideas, questions, and strategies they use in math.
- Model curiosity instead of correctness by wondering about things out loud around your student.
- Offer choices during math activities, such as which problem to start with or what tools to use (drawing, objects, paper).
- Support perseverance by praising effort on homework and sticking with a difficult problem.
- Invite your student to create math problems based on their hobbies, routines, or favorite things.

Partner with the School

- Ask your student's teacher what students are learning in math. Share how it connects to your student's home life, community, culture, and future goals.
- Ask the teacher what students should know and be able to do by the end of fifth grade. Ask what your student needs to practice or what they can work on next.
- Help your student identify their strengths in math and areas where they feel confident. Share this information with the teacher.
- Ask the teacher how they encourage students to explain their thinking, make choices, and learn from mistakes in math class.
- Discuss collaboration with the teacher. Ask how students work with others to support learning.
- If you have questions, or if your student needs extra help or is new to learning English, talk to your student's teacher, multilingual learner specialist, or individualized education program (IEP) team (if applicable).

