



# Ways to help your child



Please remember that grades are not “rewards” for hard work. All of the students have worked very hard this marking period. Grades are merely a way of communicating abilities to parents.

\*Please see my blog for links for ways to practice ELA and Math online...

<https://blogs.pennmanor.net/groffk/>

## 1. Math

- a. Practice basic facts and math skills
  - i. [www.xtramath.com](http://www.xtramath.com) Students should work through the facts so that they may focus on the skills that are the most challenging for them.
  - ii. <http://connected.mcgraw-hill.com/connected/login.do> This is our math book. The basic fact component of this site is called **Fact Dash**.
  - iii. [Khan Academy](https://www.khanacademy.com) Their mission is to provide a free, world-class education to anyone, anywhere.
  - iv. [Prodigy](https://www.prodigy.com) The engaging curriculum-aligned math platform that easily motivates students to learn and practice math.
- b. Study for tests
  - i. Students could use their study notes in their Math Journals and use the Math Chapter Review (given out the day before the test), to help them prepare for the test.
  - ii. <http://connected.mcgraw-hill.com/connected/login.do> This is our math book. Each chapter has the lessons for students to review.
- c. Math test corrections
  - i. Students always have the opportunity to make corrections on their math tests. This is a great way to review and learn the material and gain a better understanding of any material that may prove to be tricky for your child.
- d. On-line tutorials
  - i. <http://connected.mcgraw-hill.com/connected/login.do> Once again, our on-line math book. Many of the lessons have tutorials that reteach the skill that I taught that day.

## 2. Reading

- a. Have your child read every day.
  - i. Since I give very little homework, it is not unreasonable to ask that students read 15-30 minutes EVERY day.
- b. Take field trips to the public library.
  - i. This gives you a better selection of options for various interests and levels.
- c. Read to your child.
  - i. You BOTH will benefit from this! At this age, you can even bump read (taking turns by paragraphs or pages or sections).
  - ii. Get multiple copies of books and as you read to your child, occasionally, have them read along with you. This models good reading.
- d. Reading book on-line
  - i. [https://www-k6.thinkcentral.com/content/hsp/reading/storytown/na/gr4/esen\\_9780153597763\\_/index\\_live.html#](https://www-k6.thinkcentral.com/content/hsp/reading/storytown/na/gr4/esen_9780153597763_/index_live.html#) This not only includes the story, but all of the skills and vocabulary as well.

- e. Comprehension
  - i. Read with your child. Stop them after each paragraph and have them paraphrase what they just read. We do this in class so it should be familiar.
  - ii. Read with your child. Stop them after each page or so and have them describe the picture that they are seeing in their head. They could illustrate it sometimes for variety. Oral descriptions are much quicker. 😊
  - iii. Have them reread the story of the week. If they can read it out loud or into a whisper phone that would be best. Encourage them to pause and do the above two activities by themselves while reading.
  - iv. Have them answer the questions at the end of the story. Keeping in mind that we already did this once in class so it shouldn't be foreign.
- f. Fluency
  - i. Repeated readings.
    - 1. Student should read a page or selection and time themselves. Record that time on a double bar graph with a BLUE pencil to represent a cold read. Then have them read it again and time it again. This time record the data on the graph using a RED pencil to represent a hot read. Continue this as many times as necessary and you should start to see improvements in fluency. On average a 4<sup>th</sup> grader can gain about one word per week in their reading rate. They must practice to increase their fluency.
  - ii. Help them pick out more appropriate books.
    - 1. Pleasure reading should be EASY enough to read fluently.
    - 2. If students are reading books that are too challenging they will struggle with both fluency and comprehension. This is also the quickest way for a child to lose motivation.

### 3. Writing

- a. Have your child keep a journal and write for about 10 minutes every night.
- b. Practice with dominant hand exercises to help them build up the strength for the stamina of writing.
- c. Review weekly grammar lessons. By students learning the rules, they will be able to produce good sentences with more ease.
- d. Start leaving notes in cursive so that they can practice reading cursive. I often trace the printed letter within the cursive letter to have them start seeing the letters. The sooner they can write in cursive (most of us write using a combination of each) it will be easier to write a sentence. They can start forming words rather than building them letter by letter.

### 4. Spelling

- a. [www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com) You will find a list for each spelling list under my name (Search/Teacher/Kelley Groff). They can take tests, see lessons, and play games (limited)
- b. Word Study- students practice writing their words 3 times each, using this method: See / Say / Cover / Write / Check.
- c. Vowels Red, Consonants Green- Use 2 different colors to write the spelling words (one color for all vowels, one color for all consonants).
- d. Practice spelling word outside with sidewalk chalk (weather permitting)
- e. Practice with a whiteboard.
- f. Syllable the Words- Write the spelling words with breaks for each syllable.



***The most important thing is to recognize their "baby steps." Students may not have mastered something YET...but don't give up! Keep the kids motivated and excited about learning!  
THANKS for all you do to support your child at home!***