Dear Parents:

The Irvine Unified School District is committed to providing each of our students with the highest quality learning experiences possible. We believe that the best way to achieve successful academic growth is through the combined efforts of the school, parents, and child. One important way for parents to help is to be aware of what students are expected to learn. Toward that end, this document displays those learning goals considered essential at this grade level. These are referred to as grade-level content standards, and they are listed for language arts, mathematics, science, and social science.

These content standards drive the plans for daily instruction and homework. Content standards also provide the basis for progress reports and report cards. Parent/teacher conferences add further clarity regarding student progress on grade-level standards.

Along with solid instruction, these standards invite students, teachers, and parents to work together in the classroom, and at home, in the interest of success for all. For additional information on grade-level content standards, please visit our web site at: http://www.iusd.org/education_services/CurricularPrograms.html.

Sincerely,

Gwen E. Gross, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

In order to further assist parents in helping their students please refer to our website: http://www.iusd.org/parent_resources/ParentsHelpingStudents.html.

The following is an example of the items on the above mentioned website:

How to Make a Better Student
- A parent's guide on what you can do to help

Family Literacy Project
IUSD tips for parents helping children learn to read
- Tips for Reading to Your Child
- Phrases that Encourage
- Questions that Encourage Conversation about Reading
- Concepts about Print
- Phonemic Awareness Activities For 4-5-6 Year Olds
- Phonemic Awareness Activities For 6-7 Year Olds
- Bibliography: K-3 Phonemic Awareness
- Ten Tips: Helping Your Child Read Effectively
- Breaking the Sound-It-Out Barrier
- Reading Tips for Parents, Primary Caregivers, and Educators
- Helping Children Develop Oral-Language Skills
- The Family Literacy Project Video Purchase Form

Standardized Testing (STAR program)
- How parents can help improve the achievement levels measured by the Stanford 9

Children's Literature Web Guide
- Reviews children's literature

Encyclopedia Britannica
- On-line subscriber's service, the encyclopedia for a monthly fee

On-line Magazines
- Access to on-line magazines

Scholastic
- Take a look around this publisher's page, includes links

Spelling
- How Parents Can Help Their Children With Spelling and Writing
- Spelling Benefits

Phonics
- How Parents Can Assist With Phonics K-2
- Breaking the Sound-It-Out Barrier

Mathematics Resources for Parents
- Resources designed to help parents help their students with math

Kindergarten
- Activities that support Kindergarten learning

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Irvine Unified School District's Essential Standards Grade 5

READING

Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development

The Student Will:

- Read narrative and expository text aloud with fluency and accuracy and with appropriate pacing, intonation, and expression.
- Use word origins to determine the meaning of unknown words.
- Understand and explain frequently use synonyms, antonyms, and homographs.

Reading Comprehension

- Understand how text features (e.g., format, graphics, sequence, diagrams, illustrations, charts, maps) make information accessible and usable.
- Discern main ideas and concepts presented in texts, identifying and assessing evidence that supports those ideas.
- Draw inferences, conclusions, or generalizations about text and support them with textual evidence and prior knowledge.
- Distinguish among facts, supported inferences, and opinions in text.

Literary Response and Analysis

- Identify and analyze the characteristics of poetry, drama, fiction, and non- fiction as literary forms chosen by an author for a specific purpose.
- Identify the main problem or conflict of the plot and how it is resolved.
- Understand that theme refers to the meaning or moral of a selection, and recognize themes whether implied or stated directly in sample works.
- Evaluate the meaning of archetypal patterns and symbols that are found in myth and tradition by using literature from different eras and cultures (Reader Response).

WRITING

Writing Strategies

The Student Will:

- Create multiple-paragraph narrative compositions.
- Create multiple-paragraph expository compositions.
- Create simple documents by using electronic media and employing organizational features (e.g., passwords, entry and pull-down menus, word searches, the thesaurus, spell checks).
- Edit and revise manuscripts to improve the meaning and focus of writing by adding, deleting, consolidating, clarifying, and rearranging words and sentences.

Writing Applications

- Write narratives.
- Write responses to literature.
- Write research reports about important ideas, issues, or events.
- Write persuasive letters or compositions.

WRITTEN AND ORAL LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS

Sentence Structure Grammar, Punctuation, Capitalization, Spelling

The Student Will:

- Have a command of the English-language conventions, including sentence structure, grammar, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling appropriate to their grade level.

LISTENING AND SPEAKING

Listening and Speaking Strategies

The Student Will:

- Ask questions that seek information not already discussed.
- Select a focus, organizational structure, and point of view for oral presentation.
- Clarify and support spoken ideas with evidence and examples.
- Analyze media as sources for information, entertainment, persuasion, interpretation of events, and transmission of culture.

Speaking Applications

- Deliver informative presentations about an important idea, issue, or events.

MATHEMATICS

Number Sense

The Student Will:

- Interpret percent as part of a hundred; find decimal and percent equivalents for common fractions; explain why they represent the same value; and compute a given percent of a whole number.
- Identify and represent positive and negative integers, decimals, fraction, and mixed numbers on a number line.
- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide with decimals and negative numbers and verify the reasonableness of the results.
- Demonstrate proficiency with division, including division with positive decimals and long division with multiple digit divisors.
- Solve simple problems including ones arising in real life situations involving the addition and subtraction of fractions.
- Compute and perform simple multiplication and division of fractions, apply these procedures to solving problems, and express answers in simplest form.
- Explore and use a variety of strategies to compute mentally.

Algebra and Functions

- Use a letter to represent an unknown number; write and evaluate simple algebraic expressions in one variable by substitution.
- Solve simple problems involving linear functions with integer values, write the equation, and graph the resulting ordered pairs of integers on a grid.

Measurement and Geometry

- Understand and compute area, perimeter, volume and surface area of simple objects.
- Measure, identify and draw angles, perpendicular and parallel lines, rectangles, and triangles, using protractor and or drawing software.
- Determine that the sum of the angles of any triangle is 180 degrees and the sum of the angles of any quadrilateral in 360 degrees and use this information to solve problems.
- Visualize and draw two-dimensional views of three-dimensional objects made from rectangular solids.
- Choose appropriate units (metric and U.S. customary) , tools, estimate, and measure length (to the nearest sixteenth of an inch and to the nearest mm), liquid volume and weight/mass.

Statistics, Data Analysis, and Probability

- Display, analyze, compare, and interpret different data sets, including data sets that are not the same size.
- Identify ordered pairs of data from a graph and interpret the meaning of the data in terms of the situation depicted by the graph.

Mathematical Reasoning

- Solve problems using a 4-step process:
  - Make decisions about how to approach problems.
  - Use strategies, skills and concepts in finding solutions.
  - Communicate results by justifying and explaining their process and solution.
  - Determine a solution is complete and move beyond a particular problem by generalizing to other situations.

SCIENCE Grade 5/6 Year A

Physical Science (Matter)

The Student Will:

- Understand all matter is made of atoms (too small to see with our eyes), which may combine to form molecules.
- Understand that each element is made of one kind of atom. These elements are organized in the Periodic Table by their chemical properties.
- Understand properties of solid, liquid, and gaseous substances.

Life Sciences (Cells to Organisms)

- Understand many multicellular organisms have specialized structures to support the transport of materials.
- Understand plants use carbon dioxide (CO_2) and energy from sunlight to build molecules of sugar and release oxygen.

Earth Sciences (Dynamic Earth)

- Understand the fit of the continents, location of earthquakes, volcanoes, and mid-ocean ridges, and the distribution of fossils and rock types provide evidence for plate tectonics.
- Understand major geologic events, such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and mountain building result from plate motions.
- Understand rivers and streams are dynamic systems that erode and transport sediment, change course, and flood their banks in natural and recurring patterns.
- Understand some changes in the Earth are due to slow processes, such as erosion, and some changes are due to rapid processes, such as landslides, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes.

Science Process Skills (Investigation and Experimentation)

- Use appropriate tools (e.g., thermometers, meter sticks, balances, and graduated cylinders) and make quantitative observations.
- Record data using appropriate graphic representation (including charts, graphs, and labeled diagrams), and make inferences based on those data.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

The Student Will:

- Describe the major pre-Columbian settlements, including the cliff dwellers and pueblo people of the desert Southwest, the American Indians of the Pacific Northwest, the nomadic nations of the Great Plains, and the woodland peoples east of the Mississippi River.
- Trace the routes of early explores and describe the early explorations of the Americans.
- Describe the cooperation and conflict that existed among the Indians and between the Indian nations and the new settlers.
- Understand the political, religious, social, and economic institutions that evolved in the colonial era.
- Explain the causes of the American Revolution.
- Understand the course and consequences of the American Revolution.
- Understand the course and consequences of the American Revolution.
- Describe the people and events associated with the development of the U.S. Constitution and analyze the Constitution's significance as the foundation of the American republic.
- Trace the colonization, immigration, and settlement patterns of the American people from 1789 to the mid- 1800's, with emphasis on the role of economic incentives, effects of the physical and political geography, and transportation systems.
- Know the location of the current 50 states and the names of their capitals.