

Parent Letter

BCS K-5 Mathematics and Science Curriculum and Instruction

Due to the recent school closure, we would like to offer some educational activities to engage our scholars at home. We at Birmingham City Schools fully embrace our parents as our partners in education and are here to support you during this unprecedented time. Therefore, we have provided engaging learning activities and online resources for you to use at home. These documents can be accessed on the BCS District's website under the Curriculum and Instruction Department link (www.bhm.k12.al.us).

What Can Parents Do Now?

- Engage your child in daily instructional activities to keep them engaged in learning
- Continue to monitor effective study habits at home.
- Help your child understand social distancing (avoid close contact with others to prevent spread of disease).

If technology is available in the home:

- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/> This is where you can discover some of the coolest facts for kids from around our planet. From animals and geography to science, nature and history, there are so many amazing facts for kids just waiting to be discovered!
- <https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/subjects/science/> This site inspires your students with thousands of free resources including videos, lesson plans, and games aligned to state and national standards.
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/math> This site offers practice exercises, instructional videos, and a personalized learning dashboard that empower learners to study at their own pace in and outside of the classroom.
- <https://www.mathplayground.com/> This site offers free, online math games. Problem solving, logic games and number puzzles kids love to play.
- <https://login.i-ready.com/> is an online program for reading and/or mathematics that will help your child's teacher(s) determine your child's needs, personalize their learning, and monitor progress throughout the school year.
- <https://teach.conceptuamath.com/app/tool-library> offers engaging activities, research-based mathematical models for students to learn mathematics concepts and skills.

If technology is not available in the home:

- Measure ingredients for a recipe.
- Play card or board games that involve literacy and numeracy.
- Discuss and explain charts, graphs, and tables from the newspaper or magazine.
- Locate science articles in the newspaper or a magazine and write a summary or discussion
- Classify objects by putting them in groups based on their characteristics
- Practice skip counting by 2, 5, 10, 25, etc....
- Practice skip counting with fractions $\frac{1}{2}$, 1, $1\frac{1}{2}$, 2, etc....
- Practice Multiplication and Division facts
- Work on puzzles starting with 25, 50, 100, 500+ pieces or more.
- Complete appropriate grade level calendars under K-5 Mathematics and Science tab.

Guidance for Multilingual Families

Encourage listening, speaking, reading, and writing activities in English and other languages used in the home. Your participation in learning experiences in any language has a direct impact on the successful performance of your child. Multiple activities, experiences, and literature are best practices for encouraging the joy of learning in any language. It is encouraged to use bilingual resources such as books, flash cards, dictionaries, online tools, and other materials.

General Music and Art

General music cultivates a student's ability to carry out the processes of creating, performing, responding, and connecting. In General Music, standards are organized by grade level, taking into consideration the students' increasing level of maturity and intellectual growth. These concepts will be experienced through the following skills: performing (singing and playing instruments), creating, reading, writing, listening, responding, and evaluating.

- Play a recording and distinguish high/low, loud/soft, same/different.
- Explore and achieve awareness of music contrasts in a variety of music selected for performance.
- List 3 of your favorite songs and 3 of your least favorite songs and explain your preference.

Online Resource: <https://youtu.be/ixV42D5QVSA>

- Identify and compare ways in which art influences cultural values and trends. Examples: World War II propaganda, advertising, or political comics.

Online Resource:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_propaganda_during_World_War_II

- Identify how visual imagery affects one's perception of the world. Examples: Western art and Eastern art, Middle Eastern art, African art, and Early Colonial art.

Online Resources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/African_art

- Describe the effectiveness of expressive and meaningful communication in selected works of art.
- Analyze the formal organization of subject matter, elements of art, and principles of design in determining structural relationships in selected works of art.

Physical Education

- Challenge your students to stay active while at home and build their sports techniques through fitness-based components with the fitness calendars that the Alliance for a Healthier Generation and S & S sports created together.
- Action for Healthy Kids developed the 40 Tips for an Active Family to get families moving together. The idea is that you would cut out each tip and place them in a bag or jar. Then every evening, the children would draw an activity from the bag or jar and that would be the family's activity the next evening.



K-5 Literacy and Humanities

Parents Building Literacy Skills at Home

Reading

- Turn on the closed captioning while children watch television to create a shared reading experience.
- Read for different purposes. Have your child to help you read and follow directions in an instructional manual or as you make a recipe, etc.
- Have students to choose a topic they are interested in learning more about (weather, bears, communities, etc.). Visit your local library or access library books online to check out multiple books on that topic.
- Read as many books as you can by the same author (i.e.-Kevin Henkes, Eloise Greenfield, Eve Bunting, Jacqueline Woodson, etc.) or different books with the same characters (i.e. – Henry and Mudge, Frog and Toad, etc.) Do an author study – How are the books alike or different? Do a character study – use evidence from the story to figure out the character’s personality. Does the character’s personality stay the same or change in each book?
- Reread familiar books to help students practice their fluency.

Writing

- Create a writer’s notebook for your child to write in each day. Allow the child to choose topics to write about in the notebook. The child can share what he/she has written with you or someone else.
- Write stories that include their favorite characters.
- After reading multiple books on a topic, students can write a book report on the topic.

Working with Sounds and Words

- Say a word aloud and have students to tell you the sounds they hear in that word (i.e. – say the word soap, the child should say /s/ /oa/ /p/.
- Practice reading sight words using flash cards. Have students to build sentences using different sight words.
- Do an “eye spy” challenge where students find as many words in the house (on cereal boxes, magazines, books, etc.) as they can, list on paper, and discuss.
- Look up a new word each day (in the dictionary, on Google, etc.) and the definition. Give the child a tally mark each time he/she uses the new word in his/her writing or conversation.
- Show understanding of words and word meanings through art. Have the student to create a drawing to represent the meaning of the word.
- Have your child to act out the meaning of a word, other people can try to guess the word.