

POWERFUL PARTNERS

Parents and Guardians,

You are powerful partners in education and learning does not have to end in the classroom. How can you help at home? Here are some engaging activities that will support learning at home and help your child become more successful in their studies.

READING

Determining Theme and Central Idea

- After reading a story, discuss what lessons the main character learned and how the story could change to teach a different lesson.
- Try to find a common theme among television shows or movies.
 - Friendship
 - Good vs Evil
 - Love
 - Courage
 - Coming of Age
 - Power or Corruption
- Once your child can find these common themes in everyday shows and movies, ask them if they can recognize those same themes in stories they've read this year.

MATH

Practice solving equations using the distributive property and with fractions.

- Have your child work this problem $\frac{1}{2}(x-3) = \frac{3}{4}$ Have them explain to you all of the steps involved in the process and how they get the final answer.
- Have your child tell you about these different properties in mathematics and what they mean: Commutative Property of Addition and Multiplication, Associative Property of Addition and Multiplication and the Distributive property. If they can't explain these, have them research them on the Internet, or ask their teacher or fellow classmate.

Practice solving problems with taxes, tips and gratuities

- Ask your child how much you would leave for a tip if your bill is 15.88 and you want to leave 15%. Do the same for a different value and you want to leave a 20% tip and so on. I like to estimate. For example, I would round \$15.88 to \$16 and then I would take 10% of that for \$1.60, then I would say 5% of \$1.60 is \$.80, and then I would add those together to get \$2.40.
- Have your child figure out how much taxes will be on a bill for \$28.00 and tax is 6%. Have them do this for different amounts. They will hopefully make the connection that the higher that the amount is, the higher it is in taxes that you pay. (The percentage stays the same, but the amount raises.)