



ROADRUNNER EXPRESS

Foster Dual Language Pk-8
Jefferson County Public Schools

Office 303 982 1680

Fax 303 982 1679

January
2022

Principal's Page

Dear Foster Families,

Thank you to all who were able to attend our wonderful Winter Festival! It was wonderful to be together as a community and have some fun Foster style. Thank you to our amazing PTA for working so hard to make this event possible and to my wonderful middle school tour guides who did a fantastic job showing families around the new areas of our building. The Toy Market was also well attended and supported. Looking forward to many more events like this in the New Year.

In conversations with parents in the last couple of weeks, a concern has been raised around the area of communication. I am grateful for the feedback and am moving forward with creating a committee of some of my superstar communicator staff to begin to tackle this issue, both for communication around academics and general events. We will roll out some new systems in early February to address these concerns and improve communication. We love that families want more information about what is happening at school and how their child is performing. We will work together to help this be a productive, smooth process.

Open enrollment, a time when families are able to choose their school for the following year, is approaching. If your child is currently in our school PK-7, you will not need make any changes in the system for your child to be moved to the next grade at Foster. If you have an incoming PK, or Kindergarten student, you **MUST** enroll in the first round of choice enrollment, which is from January 10th and closes January 28th. All 8th graders should take this opportunity to decide where they will go for high school. While Foster feeds into Arvada High School, there are many options in Jeffco and finding the right fit is important.

As you may have read in the district's Community Update, due to the delays caused by security concerns, **EnrollJeffco Round 1 enrollment will open January 10 and run through January 28, 2022.** All applications received before the close of Round 1 (January 28) will be included in the lottery process for the 2022-2023 school year. Please Note: The time at which a Round 1 EnrollJeffco application is submitted, does not increase the priority for enrollment.

Here is a link to the page for open enrollment: <https://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/schools/enrollment/enrolljeffco>

Construction Update:

The new 1st/2nd grade playground is still in progress.

The temporary entry doors will be installed over winter break as will lockers in the middle school.

Landscaping will be ongoing and completed this spring. It will be a beautiful campus we can all be proud of!

Hope you all have a wonderful break and look forward to seeing you back to school in the new year!

Leigh Hiester
Principal



1-4 . . .	NO School Winter Break
5	Students Return
13 . . .	PTA 6PM
10 . . .	NO SCHOOL MLK Day
17 . . .	1 st Rnd Choice
31 . . .	BookFair Begins

Happy New Year

Foster School Accountability Committee

Our Foster School Accountability Committee will be meeting on Monday, February 7th, from 3:00-3:40 in the cafeteria. We will be talking about our dual language program, progress on the UIP, budget and more. All are invited to attend!





Foster 2022 ACCESS Testing Schedule Overview 1/10-2/11

ACCESS testing begins on January 11, 2022. ACCESS is a yearly assessment of the four domains of the English language and is given to all students who are Non English Proficient (NEP) or Limited English Proficient (LEP). in grades k-8. This assessment helps to determine support for students in the classroom and the strength of English instruction, and does not affect student grades. The four domains are:

Listening Reading Writing Speaking

Listening Test - approx 75 minutes total

Reading Test - approx 70 minutes total

Writing Test - approx 70-90 minutes total

Speaking Test - approx 50 min total

Practice tests are on January 5-7, 2022, and are thirty minutes long.

ACCESS testing begins on January 11, 2022 through February, 11, 2022. If you have questions, please contact Shari Crist, at scristbr@jeffco.k12.co.us or 303.982.1680. The schedule is as follows:

Listening Test - approximately 75 minutes total

Day	Time	Grade Level
Monday 10-Jan	9:20-10:45	K
	9:20-10:45	1
	1:10-2:45	K
	1:10-2:45	3
Tuesday 11-Jan e	9:20-10:45	K
	9:20-10:45	2
	1:10-2:45	K
	1:10-2:45	4
Wednesday 12-Jan	9:20-10:45	K
	9:20-10:45	MS
	1:10-2:45	K
	1:10-2:45	5
Thursday 13-Jan	9:20-10:45	Make Ups
	1:10-2:45	Make Ups
Friday 14-Jan	9:20-10:45	Make UPs
	1:10-2:45	Make UPs

Reading Test - approximately 70 minutes total

Day	Time	Grade Level
Monday 17-Jan NO SCHOOL		
Tuesday 18-Jan	9:20-10:45	K
	9:20-10:45	1
	1:10-2:45	K
	1:10-2:45	3
Wednesday 19-Jan	9:20-10:45	K
	9:20-10:45	2
	1:10-2:45	K
	1:10-2:45	4
Thursday 20-Jan	9:20-10:45	MS
	1:10-2:45	5
Friday 14-Jan	9:20-10:45	Make Ups
	1:10-2:45	Make UPs



Writing Test - approximately 70-90 minutes total

Day	Time	Grade Level
Monday 24-Jan	9:20-10:45	1
	1:10-2:45	3
Tuesday 25-Jan	9:20-10:45	K
	9:20-10:45	XXXX
	1:10-2:45	K
	1:10-2:45	XXXX
Wednesday 26-Jan	9:20-10:45	MS
	1:10-2:45	5
Thursday 27-Jan	9:20-10:45	2
	1:10-2:45	4
Friday 28-Jan	9:20-10:45	Make UPs
	1:10-2:45	Make UPs

Speaking Test - 50 Min. for test.

Day	Time	Grade Level
Monday 31-Jan	9:20-10:45	1
	1:10-2:45	3
Tuesday 1-Feb	9:20-10:45	2
	1:10-2:45	4
Wednesday 2-Feb	9:20-10:45	MS
	1:10-2:45	5
Thursday 3-Feb	9:20-10:45	Make Ups
	1:10-2:45	Make Ups
Friday 4-Feb	9:20-10:45	Make UPs
	1:10-2:45	Make UPs



A Message from the Coaches:

Hello Foster Families,

We wanted to send out some information on a few things coming up. In this update, you will find information about what to expect from your classroom teachers around MAP data, information about the ACCESS assessment, follow up for our last Family Assessment Night Information Meeting and some information for the next family engagement meeting

Vanessa Gonzalez- Instructional Coach

Valentina Lowitsch- Dual Language Coach

MAP Data:

Please be on the lookout for middle of year MAP data. This is also known as MOY MAP data. Classroom teachers should have sent out scores and a Family report before Winter break.

ACCESS Assessment:

Students who are marked as “English as a second language”, and have not shown complete English Fluency, will take an assessment for language proficiency during the month of January. This assessment is scheduled in four parts. The parts are listening, speaking, reading and writing. We will ask each grade level to communicate when your students will be taking that assessment. The window for that assessment is 1/10-2/11.

Family Assessment Night:

Our Family assessment night was a success, we will be sending the answers to the parking lot questions by break. Please look for that email. Ms. Kristin in 6th grade won the pizza party for the most in attendance.

Family Engagement Meeting Coming Up:

On February 22, 2022, we will have another family session. This time, we will be focussed on supporting your student in a dual language program.

Here is the information on that:

Who: Foster Pk-8 and Edgewater

What: How to support your Dual Language Student

When: 2/2/22

9:30 am or 5:30pm English

10:00 am or 6:00pm Spanish

Where: Google Meet: <https://meet.google.com/ydq-qsvw-iyo>





Dear preschool families,

This school year is just flying by! We are amazed at how much students are growing and developing their language skills. Students are working hard on learning their letter sounds through the Estrellita program. Students are beginning to master writing their names with little to no assistance. We are so proud of all the work that they are doing and look forward to seeing more growth this school year.

Inquiry Study# 4: What's the Matter in Your Motion?

Students will work together to explore properties of objects and materials. Through observation, predicting, and experimenting to test hypotheses, they will investigate using their 5 senses, cause-and-effect relationships found all around them, throughout everyday experiences. Key knowledge and understanding focuses on states of matter (liquid, solid, gas) and cause/effect relationships related to matter and energy (movement).



Key Vocabulary:

5 senses, scientist, matter, solid, liquid, gas, push, pull, kick, roll, pull, compare, comparative language (shortest, heavier, biggest, etc.)

Literacy

For phonological awareness, we will continue to focus on isolating the initial sounds in words, rhyming words, and listening for syllables in words. Some students are ready to start putting two sounds together to form a syllable. We will focus on the next segment of letters in Estrellita, which are t (tortuga), d (dedo), r (raton), c (conejo and cepillo). In literacy, we will practice making predictions when reading stories and changing the ending of a story. We will practice retelling a story using who, where, first, next and last to prompt students. We will encourage students to practice emergent writing skills to make predictions, observations and conclusions for the experiments they will engage in.

Math

In this new unit of study, we will introduce new concepts in math such as number stories, measurements, and comparing numbers. Students will have many opportunities to tell, act out, and solve number stories. Students will use various forms of measurement when experimenting and we will find opportunities to challenge students to compare numbers and quantities. We will continue to build students skills and abilities in number identification, 1-1 correspondence when counting, subitizing, and creating and extending patterns.



Important Dates:

December 22th-January 4th	Winter Break- No School
January 4th	Teacher PD-No school
January 13th	PTA Meeting 6pm-7pm
January 17th	Martin Luther King Day- No School
January 31st	Book Fair Begins!

Happy Holidays!

Ms. Anilu and Ms. Mari





Wow, here we are at the end of 2021! December was a great month.

We will start our third module in Reading and Writing “**My Community Heroes**”. We will be reading informational texts about different places and people in our community. Students will also be discovering what an informational text is. We will connect our reading with our writing by writing about places in our community. Ms. Alma will teach in Spanish the first two weeks of reading and Ms. Shannon will teach writing in English. Then we will switch and Ms. Alma will teach writing in Spanish and Ms. Shannon reading in English to finish our module.

In Math, we will start our third unit, “**Teen Numbers as Tens and Ones**”. Students will work on counting orally to 60, automatically identifying numbers 0-20. Representing and recognizing number combinations to 5, creating sets up to 20 items with objects and drawings using 5-group and 10-group structures, and identifying teen numbers and explaining their structure as ten ones and some more ones. We will also begin to notice the pattern found many times in the counting sequences in numbers. We will continue to add and subtract within 5 using counting strategies when quantities are represented as an equation.

Finally, after wrapping up our Science unit, Weather and Climate, we will begin our next Social Studies unit, “**Economics: Yours, Mine and Ours**”. Students will identify the differences between wants and needs and discuss how our needs and wants can be met. They will also learn the differences between things that we want and things that we need.

We wish you and your family a wonderful winter break.

See you on Wed., January 5!

Ms. Alma and Ms. Shannon



Happy Holidays 1st grade grown ups

We are so proud of all the students for working very hard during their MAP testing this winter, and are excited to see the continued growth your students make everyday. We just finished Module 4 and will be sending home the second myBook. These books are for you to use at home however you see fit; they do not have to be returned to school. In January we will be starting Module 5. Reading will be in Spanish and writing will be in English.

For math, we will continue our work on Place Value and using 10's rods and ones cubes to represent two digit numbers.

In Social Studies, we finished our unit on leaders from around the world and our unit on goods and services. In January we will be working on identifying and adding coins and will start working on our Animal External features unit.

We hope you all enjoy your Winter Break

Always feel free to reach out on Dojo if you have any questions.

Brie and Rosa





Second Grade News

January 2022

Dear Second Grade Families,

We welcome all the students back and are excited to start a new year with lots of learning. It will be nice to get back to our routines the first week of January. We are really proud to see how much students have grown since the beginning of the school year!

Here are the areas we will be covering this month in all subject areas:

- **Reading:** We will be in Module 5, *Lead the Way*. Children will read stories and texts that will help them identify the qualities many good leaders possess. They can learn to recognize these qualities in themselves so they can work to become good leaders in the classroom and in their school.
- **Writing:** We will be focusing on writing personal essays with an introduction, body paragraph and conclusion. Students will practice our grammar points through writing in English during module 5.
- **Math:** Students build flexibility with subtraction using a variety of strategies such as breaking numbers apart by place value, keeping a number whole and subtracting parts, using known number relationships and compensating, using addition, or skip counting by 10's. They will use models (tens and ones representations, open number lines, part-whole models) in order to justify their thinking about a strategy used to solve a subtraction problem.
- **Science:** Earth's Systems/ Processes that shape the earth. Some events on Earth occur in cycles, like day and night, and others have a beginning and an end, like a volcanic eruption. Some events, like an earthquake, happen very quickly; others, such as the formation of the Grand Canyon, occur very slowly, over a time period much longer than one can observe.

Thank you for your continued support at home making sure your student knows the importance of having an environment full of respect and responsibility towards learning.



Your 2nd grade teachers,
Ms. Laura and Ms. Elena



Hello third grade families!

Happy New Year! We hope this message finds you well. Below you will find information about upcoming curriculum as well as a variety of announcements.

Literacy (Reading: English/Writing: Spanish)

In Module 5, “our class will build their knowledge about the concept of teamwork, with a focus on the realistic fiction genre. We will read texts and view videos about how sports can bring people together to work as a team. Children will also write an editorial about the value of sports for an imaginary school newspaper.”

Math (English and Spanish)

We are wrapping up unit 2 with multiplication, division and word problems next week. Then, we will be moving to unit 3. In this unit, students estimate and measure liquid volume and masses of objects (using units of grams (g), kilograms (kg), and liters (l)). Students also use appropriate tools to measure (to the nearest $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch). Students will collect measurement data to construct data displays with multi-unit scales (picture graphs, bar graphs, and line plots) to communicate and reason information accurately. Students build their concept of measurement by telling time to the nearest minute (on analog and digital clocks), as well as using elapsed time and time intervals. They apply their understanding of solving a variety of measurements (linear, liquid volume, and mass) and time problems with all four operations.

Content (Science & Social Studies)

Students are in unit 2 of Science. Students will learn that weather is the minute-by-minute to day-by-day variation of the atmosphere’s condition on a local scale. Scientists record the patterns of the weather across different times and areas so that they can make predictions about what kind of weather might happen next. Climate describes the ranges of an area’s typical weather conditions and the extent to which those conditions vary over years to centuries.

Miscellaneous announcements:

- Starting this month, the Saguaros will begin their day with Ms. Paola, and the Tortugas Marinas will begin their day with Ms. Julie. Therefore, Saguaros will have math and content in the morning and reading and writing in the afternoon. The Tortugas Marinas will have reading and writing in the morning, and math and content in the afternoon.
- ACCESS testing for English Language Learners: 1:10-2:45 on January 10, 18, 24, and 31
- On Fridays we often have tinker/makerspace time. If you would like to donate clean recycled materials any week, we would greatly appreciate it!
- Classroom needs: nut and milk free snacks, Clorox wipes

Take care,

Ms. Paola (pamoore@jeffcoschools.us) & Ms. Julie (jmenning@jeffcoschools.us)



BRING IT HOME! Learning fun for the whole family!

Discuss the Topic

Set aside time daily for your child to share with you what he or she is learning. Use these ideas to help build your child’s knowledge about the topic:

- Talk about the ideas your child has added to the Knowledge Map each week.
- Ask about the texts your child is reading, and what he or she has learned from them.
- Share with your child your own questions about the topic, and work together to find the answers.

Explore the Genre

The genre focus in this module is realistic fiction. Discuss with your child the characteristics of this genre.

Ask your child to read to you each day and make time to read together.

Look for texts that:

- Spark your child’s curiosity.
- Tie to the module topic.
- Reflect real-life problems and situations.
- Feature true-to-life characters who use teamwork to solve a problem.

Build Vocabulary

Use these ideas to help your child build a rich vocabulary.

The Big Idea Reinforce the topic words *collaboration, symbiosis, determination, and unity* in everyday conversations with your child. Use prompts like these: What shows you have **determination**? When is **unity** important?

What Does It Mean? Have your child keep a growing list of the Critical Vocabulary words. Quiz each other on their meanings.

Word Hunt Look for words with the suffixes *-er/-or, -er/-est, and -ment* and the roots *bio* and *vid* in books, magazines, online texts, and environmental print.

4th Grade News

December really has flown by so fast.

We just finished our narrative writing about courage in English, and Reading was about Myths and legends in Spanish. Our next units will be English reading about the Arts...get excited for some of your students singing Beatles songs and our Spanish writing unit is about expository essays.

In Math, we will continue with the beginnings of algebra as we still review all our units in the past. Please make sure your students are practicing their multiplication/division over break to help them memorize those facts.

In Social Studies, we learned a lot about how Colorado began and how it was in the early years. We hope you enjoy this time with your family!



5th Grade January



Important Dates

Students return 1/5/2022

Holiday 1/17/2022 -NO SCHOOL



Important Reminders

Band and Orchestra
Monday 1:50

Thursday 10:20

Students brought home a practice log. Students are to be practicing at home. This also means that they should return their instrument in band



Our Learning

Reading Project Earth with Fiction Text

Writing Editorial Writing

Math Multiplication and Division of Fractions

Science Earth's Systems

Social Studies American Revolution and American Government

Hello Foster Middle School families!

It's hard to believe that we are already half way done with the school year. The middle schoolers did an amazing job on their MAP assessments and finishing up the second quarter. When we get back in the new year we will begin the third quarter of the school year with lockers and new electives.

Please remember to check your emails for our weekly Newsflash for up-to-date information about what's going on in middle school. These are sent out every Friday at 5pm. You can also find them on our [middle school website](#), which is updated weekly.

Important Dates:

Wednesday, January 5th: Start to the 3rd quarter

Monday, January 17th: No school- MLK Jr. Day

Science



6th grade:

We will be learning the physical and chemical changes of matter, We will do experiments in the laboratory identifying the chemical properties of matter.

7th grade:

We will be learning how living things are organized internally, from the grouping of cells to the human body. We will do projects and observations using the microscope to identify different cell structures.

8th grade:

We will start with the topic of waves, we will see how light is reflected or refracted in different objects and how sound travels. We will do several practices in the laboratory using prisms and different kinds of mirrors.

Social Studies



6th and 7th Grade: Students will be looking at the developments over time that created the countries, cultures, and identities that we have in the world today. They will soon look at how people and resources are distributed around the world.

8th Grade: Students are looking at the changing borders of the United States from multiple perspectives. This will lead to our next unit, covering the Civil War.

Math



6th Grade: We started looking at prisms and pyramids to calculate their surface area. Students are connecting the nets to tridimensional figures. After the break we will continue with the unit: Operations with Whole Numbers, Fractions, and Decimals.

7th Grade: Students are working on combining terms in expressions and modeling with Expressions, Equations and Inequalities.

8th Grade: We are close to finishing the unit of exponents and operations with scientific notation. After the break we will be learning about linear equations

8th Grade Algebra: We have learned all about linear equations and inequalities and, we are now starting modeling with Linear Functions



English Language Arts



We have completed our winter MAP Assessment for English Language Arts. Students demonstrated focus, attention to detail and really tried their best.

In addition to the specific units below, we will also begin to explore more word work/grammar conventions in the new year!

6th grade: Students will be weighing experiences and roles as they consider point of view in fiction and non fiction stories. We will also be working on argumentative writing commenting on individual events or ideas.

7th grade: Students will be working to distinguish different points of view and perspectives and then we'll be moving in to argumentative writing where we will work on consumer product reviews and research-based essays.

8th grade: Students will explore differing points of view and perspectives and move into argumentative writing where students will take a position and write a paper.

Spanish Language Arts



6th Grade: Self-Awareness and Self-Care

We are beginning our third unit of the year, Self-Awareness and Self-Care. In this unit, students learn about the different ways that young people develop and mature as they move from childhood to adolescence to adulthood, and how they can take care of themselves along this journey. By researching expert opinions from different cultures or regions and interviewing adults from their family or surroundings, students synthesize what they learn about human development to understand their own changing dynamics and needs.

7th Grade: Technology Innovation

In 7th grade we will be reading informational texts about the advances in technology and the effects on our daily lives. Students will also be working on their informational writing skills in this unit.

8th Grade: Latino Leaders and Leadership

We have just begun a unit on Latino Leaders and Leadership. During this unit students will be reading and writing about important leaders in the latino community and analyzing what makes a strong leader. The focus of this unit is informational texts.

All Grades:

Grammar: We will continue working on identifying when to put written accent marks in our writing, paying close attention to the accented syllable in words and the rules around which words have accents and where.

Verbs: We spent the first semester learning all the rules around conjugating verbs in present tense. We are going to work on learning the rules around irregular verbs and then move onto past tense (preterite).



Electives: -Artv -PE -Music -Technology -Diversity



Art: Middle school has been working on a variety of art techniques.

6th grade worked on self portraits

7th grade worked on

8th grade worked on ceramics.

Videography:

During elective time this quarter, middle school videographers used different digital applications to create videos on various topics. They utilized several tools including digital camera, green screen, chromebook and iPad., Students learned how each of the tools were used to create and enhance videos. Animoto, Adobe Spark, WeVideo and iMovie were all used to create individual and collaborative projects. Your student can show you their amazing creations.

Diversity:

Diversity students have been working hard to understand the importance of their identity within a community. They are wrapping up their stories for their 1st graders and they are looking beautiful, they supported 1st grade learning about different celebrations in December, and their volunteer days have been a huge success.

Physical Education:

PE students spent 2nd quarter focusing on fitness, wellness and how to set goals for improving their physical health. Through a variety of workouts, articles, videos and games, students learned about a variety of exercise styles, nutrition concepts and general safety and health topics. For third quarter, students will refocus on recreational sports including some of the sports from the upcoming Olympic Winter games.



Happy New Year!!!

It is my hope that everybody had a restful, fun filled winter break.

This year we will be exploring a variety of art and artists. More importantly we will be exploring how to use visual language to tell stories. By using a visual language our students will be given the opportunity to create a visual bridge between Spanish and English. By creating this “Language Bridge” the students will have a new tool to be successful in our dual language school. Giving our students the opportunity to tell and create stories gives them the opportunity to grow as members of our community. In addition, our school benefits from this by being a more inviting, colorful, and compassionate school

..So let’s start building that bridge!





Music Notes

Katie Oaks - General Music, K-8
katie.oaks@jeffco.k12.co.us



Hello Foster families! I hope everyone has a wonderful, restful Winter Break! When we resume classes in January, here is what our students will be learning:

For younger elementary students, music classes will continue to play instruments and sing winter-themed songs. Students will practice playing and moving to a steady beat and learn about the composer Antonio Vivaldi and the “Winter” portion of *The Four Seasons*.

Older elementary students will learn about instrument families through an in-depth study of Sergei Prokofiev’s *Peter and the Wolf*. The students will have opportunities to play themes from *Peter and the Wolf* on a variety of instruments.

Middle school students will complete a project-based unit on distinguishing fact from opinion in popular music. Students will also continue to develop their ukelele skills and abilities to read chord diagrams.

The third quarter elective, Jazz and Salsa Band, will begin the first week of January. I am very excited to get these students jamming! We are also looking for Mariachi musicians to visit our class. If any Foster community members are Mariachi musicians, or know of any, please contact Ms. Katie.

I have greatly enjoyed playing and singing the merry tunes of the winter season this month.

Please ask your child to share a song with you at home.

☺ Happy holidays!





FitBits: News from the Foster PE Department

Ms. Sammy Chumacero: K-8 PE Teacher

samanta.chumacero@jeffco.k12.co.us

I hope everyone has a safe, active and fun winter break! Take the time to rest, re-energize and get ready for a fun and busy second semester in the Foster gym! During the second half of the school year, students will focus on sport and game strategies, improving movement skills such as striking with implements, throwing and catching and more! We will also be following the Winter Olympic games, coming up in 2022.

Thank you for all of your support, patience and understanding this first half of the year while the gym has been under construction. We are almost done and the space just keeps improving!

Stay healthy, stay happy!
Ms. Sammy Chumacero
K-8 Physical Education



From the Library



JCPL PARTNERSHIP

Foster library and Jefferson County Public Libraries are partnering to share additional resources with middle school students. Visiting JCPL librarians will lead “Speed Dating with a Book” which allows students to preview titles from our school library and JCPL, select books of interest, and check them out while at school. Our purpose is to continue to expose students to many genres and titles of interest and keep them reading during Winter Break and moving forward.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Each month, classes address a specific Digital Citizenship topic to ensure our students know and understand how to utilize digital tools in a safe and responsible manner. Families receive monthly resources to support various topics to extend this topic into the home setting. January’s topic is Media Balance and Well-Being. Students go beyond screen time to explore the impact their digital lives can have on their well-being and relationships while learning to balance media in their everyday lives. More information and family activities are located on Jeffco’s website:



[Digital Wellness Supports for Families](#)



GIFTED/TALENTED

Teachers and students are beginning the first progress monitoring phase of Advanced Learning Plans (ALP) in January and February for gifted students. You will be receiving updates related to how your child is achieving the ALP goals. Please reach out to your child’s teachers with any questions you may have. Middle School students set their goals in October and will be posting progress comments; please ask your child to share these with you.

A learning opportunity for families of gifted and talented students is coming in January. More information can be found here:

[Parent/Family Learning Evening](#)



7 Ways to Boost Your Child's Vocabulary

By Ginny Osewalt

There's a strong connection between understanding words and understanding what you read. This means that kids who learn and think differently often do better at reading comprehension when they spend more time learning, practicing and understanding words.

Here are some at-home teaching methods to try that will improve your child's vocabulary.

1. Describe the word.

Provide a description of each new word you introduce. For example, maybe you're teaching your child the word merchant, which is common in upper elementary social studies textbooks. You can talk with your child about the local merchants in your town. What kinds of stores are in your town? What do they sell?

2. Say it your way.

Once you've described a new word, it helps to ask kids to come up with their own way to describe it. For example, after explaining how fortunate you are to have such a nice family, your child might explain how fortunate they feel to have the latest video game.

3. Act it out.

By acting out a word, your child is bound to better understand it. This may be particularly helpful if your child has lots of energy and loves to run around. The new word frolic, for example, can come alive through jumping around like a puppy, goat, or lamb. Why not bring the fun outdoors as well? Frolic in the garden, yard or along the sidewalk.

4. Quick draw.

Get some pencils and paper. Without using actual words, draw a quick sketch of what the new word is. For the word, reluctant, you might decide to represent it by drawing a person standing at the edge of a swimming pool with only one toe in the water. Your child, who is reluctant to eat vegetables, might draw a big bowl of broccoli and a frowny face next to it.

5. Analyze this.

Teach your child the meanings of common prefixes, suffixes and root words. For example, the prefix multi- means many and the suffix -less means not or without. Geo is a root word that means earth, as in geology. Recognizing these patterns will help your child with word meanings and understanding.

6. Write a story.

Using a list of new words, ask your child to be an author and write a story. In order to do this well, your child will need to use all of the words correctly. Bringing words together into story-form from a list will take imagination. Encourage your child to be creative & have fun.

7. Tell me once, tell me twice...

Use the new word all the time. So, if the word is essential, you might talk about what is essential to pack for a camping trip or have a discussion about what is essential for happiness. A checklist of essential chores might help remind your child to walk the dog, do homework and set the table before dinner.

