



**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)**

The Florida Standards reflect several important changes to previous standards. These changes are called shifts. The chart below shows what these shifts change, what you might see in your child's backpack and what you can do to help your child. If you have questions or concerns about your child's assignments or progress, please contact the teacher.

What's Shifting?	What to Look for in the Backpack?	What Can You Do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your child will now <b>read more non-fiction</b> in each grade level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look for your child to have more reading assignments based on real-life events, such as biographies, articles and historical stories.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read non-fiction books with your children. Find ways to make reading fun and exciting.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reading more non-fiction texts will help your child <b>learn about the world through reading.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look for your child to bring home more fact-based books about the world. For instance, your 1<sup>st</sup> grader or kindergartener might read Clyde Robert Bulla's <u>A Tree is a Plant</u>. This book lets students read and learn about science.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Know what non-fiction books are grade-level appropriate and make sure your children have access to such books.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your child will <b>read challenging texts very closely</b> so they can make sense of what they read and draw their own conclusions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your child will have reading and writing assignments that might ask them to retell or write about key parts of a story or book. For example, your 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> grader might be asked to read aloud Faith D'Aluisio's non-fiction book titled <u>What the World Eats</u> and retell facts from the story.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide more challenging texts for your child to read. Show them how to dig deeper into difficult pieces.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When it comes to writing or retelling a story, your child will <b>use "evidence" gathered from the text to support what they say.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look for written assignments that ask your child to draw on concrete examples from the text that serve as evidence. Evidence means examples from the book that your child will use to support a response or conclusion. This is different from the opinion questions that have been used in the past.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ask your child to provide evidence in everyday discussions and disagreements.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your child will <b>learn how to write from what they read.</b></li> <li>Your child will <b>have an increased academic vocabulary.</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look for writing assignments that ask your child to make arguments in writing using evidence. For 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, this might mean reading and writing about <u>The Kid's Guide to Money</u>, a non-fiction book by Steve Otfinoski.</li> <li>Look for assignments that stretch your children's vocabulary and teach them that "language is power".</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage writing at home. Write together using evidence and details.</li> <li>Read often to babies, toddlers, preschoolers and children.</li> </ul>

SJCSJ Year-at-a-Glance: <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/> Weekly guide to instruction with links to videos, tutorials and resources for most subjects and grade levels.

[www.FLDOE.org](http://www.FLDOE.org) - Florida Department of Education's official website

[www.FloridaStudents.org](http://www.FloridaStudents.org) - The Florida Department of Education established a website with Florida Standards tutorials and resources for what your child is learning. There are 255 resources in language arts, 1425 in mathematics, 587 in science and 134 civics. Click on the subject and then the grade level

[www.FLStandards.org](http://www.FLStandards.org) - Florida Standards resources, parent guides and the "We Can Do This, Florida!" video series

[www.JustTake20.org](http://www.JustTake20.org) - Family reading activities

[www.JustReadFlorida.com](http://www.JustReadFlorida.com) - Literacy resources

**District Support Personnel**

Laurie Hays  
Elementary Language Arts Specialist  
(904) 547 - 7548  
[Laurie.Hays@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Laurie.Hays@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

Sheila Veatch  
Coordinator K - 12 Literacy  
(904) 547 - 7529  
[Sheila.Veatch@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Sheila.Veatch@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

Tables adapted from FLDOE document: **Parent's Backpack Guide to the Florida Standards**

<http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/12087/urlt/Backpack-Guide.pdf>

# MATHEMATICS

To improve student learning, the Florida Standards are different from previous standards. These changes are called shifts. The chart below shows what is shifting, what you might see in your child's backpack and what you can do to help your child.

What's Shifting?	What to Look for in the Backpack?	What Can You Do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your child will <b>work more deeply in fewer topics</b>, which will ensure full understanding. (Less is more!)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look for assignments that require students to show their work and explain how they arrived at an answer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Know what concepts are important for your child based on their grade level and spend time working on those concepts.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your child will <b>keep building on learning year after year</b>, starting with a strong foundation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look for assignments that build on one another. For example, students will focus on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. Once these areas are mastered, they will focus on fractions. Building on that, they will then focus on Algebra. You should be able to see the progression in the topics they learn.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be aware of what concepts your child struggled with last year and support your child in those challenge areas moving forward.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your child will <b>spend time practicing and memorizing math facts</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look for assignments that ask your child to master math facts such as addition groupings up to 20 or multiplication tables.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Help your child know and memorize basic math facts. Ask your child to "do the math" that pops up in daily life.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your child will <b>understand math processes and be asked to talk about and prove their understanding</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your children might have assignments that ask them to show or explain their mathematical thinking - to SAY why they think their answer is the right one.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talk to your children about their math homework and ask them to teach you new concepts. Help them figure out ways to explain their thinking.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Your child will now be asked to <b>use math in real-world situations</b>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Look for math assignments that are based on the real world. For instance, homework for 5<sup>th</sup> graders might include adding fractions as part of a dessert recipe or determining how much pizza friends ate based on fractions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide time every day for your child to work on math at home.</li> </ul>

SJCSD Year-at-a- Glance: <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/year-at-a-glance/> Weekly guide to instruction with links to videos, tutorials and resources for most subjects and grade levels.

[www.FLDOE.org](http://www.fldoe.org) - Florida Department of Education's official website

[www.FloridaStudents.org](http://www.FloridaStudents.org) – The Florida Department of Education established a website with Florida Standards tutorials and resources for what your child is learning. There are 255 resources in language arts, 1425 in mathematics, 587 in science and 134 civics. Click on the subject and then the grade level.

[www.FLStandards.org](http://www.FLStandards.org) – Florida Standards resources, parent guides and the "We Can Do This, Florida!" video series

[www.khanacademy.org/commoncore/](http://www.khanacademy.org/commoncore/) – Khan Academy has thousands of new, interactive math problems fully aligned to every standard from K-12.

## District Support Personnel

Donna Frank  
Elementary Mathematics Specialist  
(904) 547 – 7745  
[Donna.Frank@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Donna.Frank@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

Kim Wuellner  
Coordinator K – 12 Mathematics  
(904) 547 – 7539  
[Kim.Wuellner@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Kim.Wuellner@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

Tables adapted from FLDOE document: **Parent's Backpack Guide to the Florida Standards**

<http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/12087/urlt/Backpack-Guide.pdf>