

Parents of Students Grades PreK-4

This school year West Virginia added world-class rigor to traditional core subjects and aligned state standards with national and international tests. We call it Global 21.

Why is public education changing?

- Eighty percent of jobs that your children will hold do not even exist yet. That is why it is important to teach them the same skills that children across the world are learning.
- Children need core subjects like math, science, social studies and English, but they also need to know how to work in teams, how to problem solve, and to understand other languages and cultures.
- Students need to
 - be taught how to find solutions to problems on their own;
 - use technology at home and in school;
 - know how to use money to make good purchases;
 - develop good health habits as responsible citizens of the world;
 - be able to do well on state, national and international tests.

In the 21st century learning environment, students in preschool through fourth grade will

- learn to read easily and understand what they read;
- learn math and use it to solve problems;
- learn a second language;
- learn to put their ideas in writing;
- use computers and other technology to learn and share information;
- work with a partner or a group to find answers;
- connect learning in school with being good and successful citizens;
- think about what they read in printed material and on the Internet and decide if it is true;
- be active learners who work with their teachers to see their progress in all subjects.

What can I do to help my student?

- Encourage your child to read no fewer than 25 books a year. Keep a checklist visible.
- Learn to use a computer or other technology with your child.
- Include your child in solving problems, such as water use or recycling.
- Include your child in choosing daily activities such as what to have for meals or what to wear.
- Model acceptance of others.
- Volunteer in your community as a family.
- Review the West Virginia Content Standards and Objectives at: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/teach21/>.
- Learn more about 21st century learning at: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/21stparents/hs.html>.

