



Things You May Not Know About Our School K-3 Primary Program

What is the K-3 Primary Program?

In Kentucky, the elementary primary program consists of Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades. Students are allowed to have 5 years to complete this 4-year program. Because all students progress and develop at different rates, some students may need to take advantage of that extra 5th year in the primary program before entering the intermediate program, which starts with 4th grade. Following is some additional information about our K-3 Primary Program.

Learning Targets

Learning targets help teachers and students stay focused on the skill or concept being learned. Following are examples of learning targets from each grade level:

K	I can identify the letters of the alphabet.
1st	I can explain how to find 10 more or 10 less than a 2-digit number.
2nd	I can use more than one strategy to solve an addition or subtraction problem.
3rd	I can describe characters in a story and how their actions are part of the sequence of events.

When you see learning targets like these on a progress reports, newsletters, student assignments, or tests, then you too can have a better understanding of what students are learning. The goal is for students to reach mastery for every standard, which means that the student can demonstrate a concept or skill consistently enough to be prepared for the next grade level.

Standards-Based Grading

In the primary program, student progress is measured using a standards-based system instead of a letter-grade system. The primary progress report lists all of the skills that students in that grade level are expected to learn. Each 9-weeks, students receive one of the following ratings for each standard:

3	<i>Consistently demonstrates concepts and skills of standards taught this quarter</i>
2	<i>Sometimes demonstrates concepts and skills of standard taught this quarter</i>
1	<i>Seldom demonstrates concepts and skills of standard taught this quarter</i>
NA	<i>Introduced but not assessed</i>
NT	<i>Not taught this quarter</i>

Please realize that these rankings do not correlate to letter grades. A student who scores all 3's on a primary progress report may not get all A's if the letter-grading system is applied because the letter-grades are based on points earned and not on mastery of standards.

The primary progress report should also provide descriptive feedback to let you and your child know what to do to improve on those standards not mastered.

How Can You Help?

To help your child be successful and reduce the chances that they may need to benefit from a 5th year in the primary program, the first step is to ensure good attendance. Another key factor is to reinforce learning at home by playing learning games, and helping with homework and projects. Also, maintain good communication with the teacher and help your child develop a positive attitude toward school and learning. Still, because every child develops at their own pace, it may be necessary, despite the very best efforts of students, parents and teachers, for a particular student to spend that 5th year in the primary program in order to master all of their standards.