

Building Academic Vocabulary

Bayfield School District teachers have adopted a system wide approach for teaching academic vocabulary called the six-step process to building academic vocabulary. This method, described in Building Academic Vocabulary (2005) by Robert Marzano and Debra Pickering, is predicated on students learning a common core of critical academic terms across grade levels and content areas. Because students' knowledge is encapsulated in the terms they know, the more academic vocabulary they understand, the easier it is for them to learn and understand *new* content that builds as they move up the ladder.

Between 20-40 academic terms were pre-identified by Bayfield School District teachers for each content area and grade level based upon Colorado content standards. These terms are NOT the only terms that will be taught during a school year (teachers will teach MANY more), but because of their critical importance to building academic knowledge, they are the only ones that will be taught using the six-step process.

Students have folders or notebooks at school in which they keep the vocabulary templates they use as they proceed through the six-step process. Teachers introduce the term or phrase in steps 1 – 3 by asking students to generate their own explanation, description, and/or example, and then ask students to represent the term graphically. Terms are sharpened in steps 4-6 by students comparing their understanding to classmates' and teachers using activities and games to engage students in different modalities of learning to keep terms active in working memory, and as they are deepened, committed to permanent memory.

Ask your student(s) about their vocabulary templates and notebooks and familiarize yourselves with the words your children are learning on each of the school's web sites. Teachers and students will be glad you did!

Grade 1 Math

addition
subtraction
sum
difference
less than
greater than
coins
number
rectangle
triangle
square
circle
pattern extension
hours
minutes
standard measures of time
calendar
week
year
set
graph
digit
fractions
compare
order
data
symbol
facts
multiples
fact families

Grade 1 Science

seasons
parent/offspring similarities
basic needs of animals
animal features
habitat
earth rotation
similarities/ differences between organisms
animal growth
prediction
hibernation/migration
ocean
soil
solids
liquids
natural resources
recycling
sand
organisms
hypothesis
results
experiments
state of matter

Grade 1 Language Arts

short vowel
long vowel
consonant blends
digraphs
decoding
syllables
compound words
word families
sight words
schema
mental images
characters
setting
retell
predictions
fluency
purpose
fiction
non-fiction
reread
poem
discussion
conversation
sentence
plan writing
big ideas
details
rough drafts
revise
edit
final copy
problem
solution

Grade 1 Social Studies

globe
ocean
citizen
authority
responsibility
respect
state
goods
services
world
time line
cultural tradition
national flag
Colorado flag
United States
White House
unity
symbol
George Washington
Abraham Lincoln
Martin Luther King Jr.
capitol
capital

Grade 2 Language Arts

main idea
map (story map)
sequence of events
question
summarize
vowel teams
comprehension
table of contents
consonant
story elements
paragraph
main character
character traits
publish
respond to literature
vocabulary
author
blend
punctuation
spelling pattern
chapter
dictionary
genre
inference
visualize

Grade 2 Math

area
estimate
length
temperature

model (number sentence)
likely-not likely
distance
measurement
second
whole number
table
volume
place value to 1,000
ordinal number
computation
attributes
symmetry
addend
value
rounding
regrouping

Grade 2 Science

earth materials
plant
plant growth
rock characteristics
soil
growth
solid growth
pebble
sound
vibration
weather
chart
boulder
observation
sand
science
scientist
temperature
thermometer
water
weather conditions
daily weather pattern
seasonal weather pattern
wind
scientific method

Grade 2 Social Studies

student
teacher
family
Colorado
respect
cooperation
the west
wagon
pioneer
trail
explore
buffalo

Native American
crowded
frontier
countries
lifestyles
direction
continent
equator
hemisphere
landforms
equality
rules
rights
compass rose
key

Grade 3 Social Studies

Civics

campaign
career
citizen
community
election
government
laws
leader/leadership
occupations/jobs
vote/voting

Economics

goods/services
occupations/jobs
supply/demand
trade/barter

Geography

agriculture
cardinal directions
city/town
community: urban, suburban, rural
compass rose
continent
country
culture
environment
intermediate directions
map
map key/legend
map scale
natural resources
region
state
transportation
resources

History

timeline
biography

settlers

Grade 3 Language Arts

antonym
synonym
compare and contrast
context clue
direct quote
adverb
cause and effect
comma
compound word
contraction
multi-meaning word
possessive pronoun
prefix
pronoun
setting
stay on topic
suffix
supporting detail
conclusion
word choice
voice
organization
opinion
abbreviation
apostrophe
author's purpose
point of view
detail
transition words

Grade 3 Science

Insects-

metamorphosis
head
thorax
abdomen
antennae
chrysalis
cocoon
egg
larva
pupa
adult

Animals

classify
vertebrate
invertebrate
food chain
omnivore
herbivore
carnivore

Electricity

battery
conduct

electrical circuit
electrical current
attract
repel

Water Cycle

precipitation
condensation
evaporation
water cycle
erosion
states of matter

Muscles/Bones

joint
muscular system
skeletal system

Scientific Method

hypothesis
experiment

Grade 3 Math

perimeter
product
multiplication
decimal
mean
quotient
angle
associative property
commutative property
identity property
dividend
divisor
division
elapsed time
equation
fraction
probability
problem solving
reasonable
factor
identity property
mode
median
shape transformation
flip
turn
slide
numerical expression

Grade 4 Language Arts

appendix
glossary
heading
scan
subject-verb agreement

topic sentence contrast
edit
first person
indentation
mood
paragraph
plot
preposition
quotation marks
revise
root word
third person
audience
chart
character development
chronological order
declarative sentence
draft
fantasy
fable
index

Grade 4 Science

ability to support life
apparent movement
of the planets
apparent movement
of the stars
apparent movement of the Sun
astronomy
constellation
Earth's axis
Earth's orbit
Earth's surface
Earth's temperature
energy transfer
environment
extinction
food web
forms of energy
fossil
fossil evidence
life cycle
living organism
migration
Moon's orbit
Moon's phases
outer space
planet
predator
solar system

Grade 4 Math

acute angle
multiple
obtuse angle
right angle
certainty

probability
equilateral triangle
isosceles triangle
meter
parallel lines
perpendicular line
remainder
rotation
volume measurement
number pairs
vertical axis
3-dimensional shape
part to whole
repeating pattern
surface area
translation
reflection
tally
centimeter
common fractions
addition algorithm
horizontal axis

Grade 4 Social Studies

agriculture
archaeologist
artifact
chronology
climate
drought
economy/economics
elevation
state government
governor
landforms
legislature
mine/mining/mining town
prehistoric
resources
rights
scarce/scarcity
consumer
financial risk
Anasazi

Grade 5 Social Studies

capital
consumer
credit
earnings
funds
income
investment
loan
profit
revenue
surplus
tax

trade
wage
colonization
economic region
expansion
inhabitants
land use
landmark
society
trade route
transportation system
Spanish Explorers
George Washington
Stamp Act
Boston Tea Party
Boston Massacre
Articles of Confederation
Revolutionary War
taxation without representation
Patriot
Loyalist

Grade 5 Math

capacity
classes of triangles
denominator
decimal subtraction
distributive property
divisibility
English system of measurement
equivalent forms
estimation of fractions
geometric pattern
gram
greatest common factor
improper fraction
intersection of shapes
irrelevant information in a problem
least common multiple
mass
metric system
midpoint
mixed numbers
negative number
number sentence
order of operations
pie chart
positive number
prime number
reduced form
sample
scale
survey
volume of rectangular solids

Grade 5 Science

data
environment

scientific method
predictions
procedures
results
conclusion
climate
weather
atmosphere
anemometer
barometer
air pressure
thermometer
wind vane
hygrometer
conserve
recycle
renewable
fossil fuel
biomass
wind turbine
hydropower
geothermal
mixtures
mass
minerals
compounds
elements
organism
organ
adaptation
system
function

Grade 5 Language Arts

citation
grammar
interrogative sentence
outline
persuade
foreshadowing
conflict
paraphrase
captions
sub-heading
problem/solutions
base words
narrative
figurative language
expository
imagery
rhythm
comprehension
oral expression
alliteration
onomatopoeia
exclamatory sentence
imperative sentence
stanza

Grades K-5 Spanish

Buenos días
Buenas tardes
Buenas noches
¿Puedo ir al baño?
¿Puedo beber agua?
Numbers/Los números
¿Cómo estás?
bien
mal
así, así
gracias
de nada
Los colores
La cara
el cuerpo
silencio
escuchen
siéntense
levántense
repitan
maestra(o)
¿Cómo te llamas?
Day of the Dead
número

Grades K-5 Art

artist
line
texture
secondary color
primary color
warm color
cool color
horizon line
shade
tint
shape
print
geometric
organic
value
complementary color
abstract

Grades K-5 Physical Education

balance
catch
exercise
flexibility
galloping
goal
heart rate
hopping
jogging
pass a ball
running

skipping
sliding
sport
stretching
team sport
throwing
throwing arm
jumping
lunging
body control
cool-down
curl-up
distance walk/run
endurance
fitness standard
increased heart rate
individual sport
lifestyle
lifetime sport
proper nutrition
pull-up
pulse rate
push-up
serve the ball
shoot the ball
sportsmanship
timed walk/run
training
warm-up

Grades K-2 Technology

return key
space bar
delete key
cursor
grab box
shift key
click and drag
double click
icon
desktop
highlight
paste
font
enter key
screen
Internet
menu
monitor
mouse
World Wide Web
application
file
keyboard
printer
save as
word processor
text box

resize
touch pad
wifi

Grades 3-5 Technology

back up button
back-up data
cell
citation page
column
coy
copyright law
cut
document
download
e-mail
edit
file folder
graphic object
hard drive
home page
horizontal alignment
Internet browser
online
paste
presentation program
row
save as
scroll
software
table
text box
touch pad
troubleshooting
URL
vertical spacing
wifi
word processor
zoom