

On Common Ground



WHAT ARE THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS (CCSS)?

- The Common Core State Standards initiative was a state-led effort to establish a shared set of clear academic standards for English Language arts and Mathematics that states may voluntarily adopt. The standards have been created based on the best available evidence and the highest state standards across the country.
- The standards were created by a group of teachers, content experts, school administrators, and parents.
- The goal of the standards is to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to go to college or enter the workforce and that parents, teachers, and students have a clear understanding of what is expected from them.
- The standards are also benchmarked to international standards to guarantee that students are competitive in the emerging global marketplace.



THIRD GRADE - MARKING PERIOD 1: 2012 - 2013

This newsletter provides an overview of what your child will learn based on the Common Core State Standards during the first marking period of third grade in reading, writing, and mathematics. It also offers ideas to support your child's learning at home.

READING

At school, students will:

- Describe the traits, motivations, or feelings of characters in a story and how their actions impact the story's events.
- Explain how specific aspects of a text's illustrations contribute to the mood of a story or emphasize aspects of a character or setting.
- Identify the main idea of a text and recount key details that support the main idea.
- Use information gained from text features such as maps and photographs to understand the text. Read multisyllable words.

At home, you can:

- Talk to your child about books they are reading. Ask him/her to explain the characters and the decisions the characters make in the story.
- Read stories and articles together. Discuss the main idea and find details that support the main idea.
- Read informational texts, such as news articles or magazines. Point out maps and photographs.

WRITING

At school, students will:

- Write narrative stories to share real or imaginative experiences or events, including a situation and a narrator and/or characters.
- Develop experiences and events in a story that unfold smoothly and naturally and provide a sense of closure.
- Use temporal words and phrases, such as "eventually" or "the following day."
- Take brief notes from print and digital sources and sort notes into categories for research assignment.
- Use commas and quotation marks when using dialogue in writing.
- Write opinion piece on a given topic and provide reasons to support opinion

At home, you can:

- Write narrative stories together, where all family members contribute to a story. Your child can do all the writing, or the whole family can take turns writing.
- Encourage your child to write every day by keeping a journal or diary with his/her own stories.
- Assist your child with his/her research project by visiting the library and reading information together.

MATH

At school, students will:

- Identify, use, and model place value positions up to the thousands place.
- Read, write, and compare numbers 0-9,999.
- Add and subtract two- and three-digit numbers with and without regrouping.
- Identify patterns created by using manipulatives, pictures, and numbers and describe how they are extended.
- Collect and represent data using number lines, frequency tables, and pictographs.
- Solve two step word problems using addition and subtraction.
- Assess correctness of math answers using rounding and other strategies.

At home, you can:

- Ask your child to compare numbers by asking questions such as "Which number is the greatest?" or "Which number is the least?"
- Practice adding and subtracting two- and three-digit numbers. Check final answer. "Does it make sense?"
- Look for patterns around the house and in nature.
- Assist with nightly homework.