

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.



FOURTH 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 fourth grade in reading, writing, and mathematics. It also offers ideas to support your child's learning at home.

READING

At school, students will:

- Use details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing conclusions from the text.
- Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story, drawing on specific details from a text.
- Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by details.
- Use charts, graphs, diagrams, timelines, animations, or interactive elements on web pages and explain how the information supports understanding of the text.
- Read poetry accurately and expressively.

At home, you can:

- Ask your child to describe characters, setting, or events from books he/she is reading. Ask questions to encourage deeper explanations.
- Read news and magazine articles and discuss the main idea and important details.
- Read and write poetry together.
- Read information texts and discuss charts, graphs, diagrams, and timelines.

WRITING

At school, students will:

- Write narrative stories that include a narrator and/or characters, a natural sequence of events, and a conclusion that follows from the narrated events.
- Use dialogue and description to develop experiences and events or to show the responses of characters to situations.
- Consider the task, purpose, and audience of their writing when developing and organizing their work.
- Plan, revise, and edit their writing with support from peers and adults.
- Use print and digital sources to collect information and provide a list of sources.

At home, you can:

- Encourage your child to keep a personal journal or diary.
- Show your child how to use books and the internet to find factual information on topics that are of interest to him/her.
- Involve your child in authentic writing experiences, such as writing letters to friends or family members.
- Show your child how to use quotation marks.

MATH

At school, students will:

- Immediately recall and use multiplication and division facts.
- Add and subtract multi-digit numbers.
- Compare numbers using is less than (<), is greater than (>), and is equal to (=) signs.
- Multiply a whole number of up to four digits by one digit (e.g., $4,291 \times 6$).
- Multiply two, two-digit numbers (e.g., 23×91).
- Multiply or divide to solve word problems involving multiplicative comparison (e.g., use drawings and equations with a symbol for an unknown number to represent the problem.)

At home, you can:

- Practice multiplication and division facts with flash cards.
- Show your child how math is used in everyday life, such as estimating the cost of a purchase at the store or balancing a checkbook.
- Compare prices at the store.
- Practice multiplying and dividing large numbers by a one-digit number.
- Practice multiplying two, two-digit numbers
- Discuss ways multiplication and division are used everyday.