

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 2 :

2012 - 2013

This newsletter provides an overview of what your child will learn based on the Common Core State Standards during the second 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:

- Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.
- Compare and contrast themes, settings, and plots of stories written by the same author about the same or similar characters.
- Use text features and search tools (e.g., key words, sidebars, hyperlinks) to locate information relevant to a given topic.
- Form and use simple verb tenses.

At home, you can:

- Read different types of books together, including fables, folktales, and myths; discuss the central message, lesson, or moral of the story.
- Read different stories written by the same author and compare the themes, settings, and plots.
- Read informational texts and Internet sources together; use text features and search tools to find information.
- Go on a newspaper "verb hunt".

WRITING

At school, students will:

- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
- Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.
- Write pieces that include an introduction, reasons for their opinion, and a concluding statement or section.
- Use commas and quotation marks in dialogue.
- Write narrative stories to share experiences.
- Develop experiences and events in a story that unfold smoothly and provide a sense of closure.
- Use temporal words and phrases such as "eventually" or "the following day".

At home, you can:

- Encourage your child to keep a personal journal or diary to explain things he/she knows or things he/she learns.
- Write a letter to a family member. Add commas and quotation marks where needed.
- Help your child add details and reasons to support his/her opinions.

MATH

At school, students will:

- Interpret products of whole numbers (e.g., 5×7 is the total number of objects in 5 groups of 7 objects each).
- Interpret quotients of whole numbers (e.g., $56 \div 7$ is the number of objects in each share when 56 objects are divided equally into 8 shares).
- Use multiplication and division up to 100 to solve word problems.
- Understand a fraction as a number on a number line and as part of a whole.
- Partition shapes into equal areas.

At home, you can:

- Help your child understand the concepts of multiplication and division.
- Make up word problems for your child to solve that involve multiplication and division.
- Explain how fractions are used in everyday life (e.g., measuring lumber for a house, cooking).
- Discuss how fractions and dividing shapes into equal parts are related.