

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

READING

At school, students will:

- Determine the theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.
- Explain major differences between poems, drama, and prose, and refer to the structural elements of poems (e.g., verse, rhythm) and drama (e.g., casts of characters, setting.)
- Compare and contrast point of view from which different stories are narrated, including between first-person and third-person narrations.
- Compare and contrast the treatments of similar themes and topics (e.g., good vs. evil) in stories, myths, and traditional literature from different cultures.

At home, you can:

- Ask your child questions about stories he/she is reading; have him/her use parts of the story to explain his/her thinking.
- Find poetry or plays to read or watch together.
- Read stories or dramas together and discuss the characters and setting.
- Look for main ideas in text and how the author supports the main ideas.
- Read texts with narration.

WRITING

At school, students will:

- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
- Introduce a topic clearly and group related information in paragraphs and sections.
- Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information related to the topic.
- Link ideas with categories of information using words and phrases (e.g., another, for example, also).
- Provide a concluding statement or section related to the presented information.

At home, you can:

- Encourage your child to keep a personal journal or diary to tell his/her own stories.
- Include your child in real-life writing experiences. (e.g., write a letter to a family member to share recent events).
- Show your child how to use books and online resources to gather information on a topic.
- Encourage your child to use descriptive words in speaking and writing.

MATH

At school, students will:

- Find whole-number quotients and remainders with up to four-digit dividends and one-digit divisors (e.g., $5,941 \div 6$).
- 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).
- Determine totals for money amounts, using addition and subtraction.

At home, you can:

- 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.
- Encourage your child to use both drawings and equations when solving problems.
- Compare prices at the store.