

On Common Ground

Kindergarten, Trimester 1

Fall 2013



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

WHAT ARE THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS?

- 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.

Reading

At school, students will:

- Recognize and name all uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet.
- Recognize and produce the sounds of letters.
- Recognize and produce rhyming words and syllables, as well as, sounds at the beginning, middle, and end of words.
- Understand the organization and basic features of books and print.
- Understand the relationship between illustrations and text in a book.
- Identify characters, setting, and major events in a story.
- Retell a story after listening to the story.

At home, you can:

- Read and discuss books together.
- Have children talk about what is happening in a book's illustrations.
- Talk about characters, setting, and events when reading stories together.
- Practice naming letters and the sounds they make.
- Discuss the first, middle, and ending sounds of words used when speaking.

Writing

At school, students will:

- Print upper and lowercase letters.
- Use drawing and writing to explain or provide information.
- Recognize, name, and use end punctuation in writing sentences.
- Write and/or draw pictures about a specific topic and provide details about the topic.
- Respond to questions and suggestions from peers and add details to their writing.
- Describe familiar people, places, things, and events.
- Add drawings to descriptions to provide additional detail.

At home, you can:

- Practice correctly forming the letters of the alphabet.
- Set up a writing station at home where children can write and draw. Provide paper, markers, crayons, and other materials to encourage writing and drawing.
- Work together to write/draw real-life situations, such as creating a grocery list or writing a letter to someone.

Mathematics

At school, students will:

- Count to 100 by ones and tens.
- Count as many as 20 objects scattered and arranged in a line, circle, or rows.
- Compare two groups of objects (up to 10 objects in each group) to determine if the number of objects in one group is greater than, is less than, or is equal to the other.
- Compare two numbers between 1 and 10 presented as written numerals.
- Learn names of shapes and identify shapes as two-dimensional or three-dimensional.
- Learn position words, such as *above*, *below*, *beside*, *in front of*, *behind*, and *next to*.

At home, you can:

- Practice counting to 100 by ones and tens.
- Count two different objects around the house and determine which set of objects is greater than, is less than, or is equal to the other.
- Look for two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes in the environment.
- Practice position words (e.g., "The window is *beside* the door." "I am *behind* you.").

On Common Ground

First Grade, Trimester 1

Fall 2013



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

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Reading

At school, students will:

- Describe characters, setting, and major events in a story using text and illustrations.
- Ask and answer questions about key details and identify the main idea in a text.
- Explain major differences between books that tell stories and books that give information.
- Distinguish between information provided by pictures or illustrations and information provided by words in a text.
- Read regularly spelled one-syllable words (e.g., flat, ship, or rope).

At home, you can:

- Listen to your child read decodable text and give appropriate feedback.
- Read books together and discuss characters, setting, and events in the story.
- Discuss the details your child sees in a book's illustrations.
- Help your child sound out words when reading together.
- Ask your child questions about a text when reading together.

Writing

At school, students will:

- Write informative/explanatory text that include a topic, some facts about the topic, and a sense of closure.
- Print all uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Capitalize dates and names of people.
- Use proper end punctuation for sentences.
- Spell words using knowledge of learned spelling patterns. For example, if students learn the "ee" pattern, they can use it to spell "keep," "sleep," and "peel."
- Spell unttaught words phonetically, connecting sounds to letters.

At home, you can:

- Use books and Internet sources to gather information; have your child write about what he/she learned.
- Help your child correctly write all of the uppercase and lowercase letters.
- Explain why it is important to capitalize names and dates when writing.
- Encourage your child to use letter sounds to figure out how to spell words.

Mathematics

At school, students will:

- Add and subtract up to 20, using objects, drawings, and equations.
- Solve word problems that require addition of three whole numbers whose sum is less than or equal to 20.
- Understand the meaning of the equal (=) sign (e.g., equal value on both sides).
- Determine if equations involving addition and subtraction are true or false.
- Determine the unknown whole number in an addition or subtraction equation relating three whole numbers (e.g., $3 + _ + 7 = 14$).

At home, you can:

- Practice adding and subtracting within 20.
- Give your child addition and/or subtraction sentences with three numbers to simplify (solve). For example, $3 + 9 + 6 = ?$
- Discuss what the equal (=) sign means.
- Give your child incorrect addition and subtraction problems and have him/her correct the error.

On Common Ground

Second Grade, Trimester 1

Fall 2013



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

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Reading

At school, students will:

- Ask and answer questions such as who, what, when, why, where, and how to show understanding of key details in text.
- Describe how characters respond to major events and challenges.
- Use text features, such as captions, bold print, subheadings, glossaries, indexes, electronic menus, and icons to locate key information in text.
- Read regularly spelled two-syllable words such as “candy” or “eager.”
- Read words with common prefixes and suffixes, such as “reread” or “dancing.”

At home, you can:

- Ask your child questions when you read together. Ask him/her to retell details from the story.
- Look for words with prefixes and suffixes when reading.
- Ask your child to explain or predict how the characters in stories respond to major events and challenges.
- Read all types of text, including magazines, news articles, and books.

Writing

At school, students will:

- Write informative/explanatory texts in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points, and provide a concluding statement or section.
- Edit and revise writing to focus and strengthen a topic.
- Recall information or gather information from provided resources, such as books or websites to answer questions.
- Produce, expand, and rearrange simple and compound sentences.
- Use commas in greetings and closings of letters.

At home, you can:

- Write together.
- Encourage your child to write in a personal journal or diary every day.
- Share with your child ways you write in everyday life.
- Help your child find books and Internet resources to locate information on topics that interest them. Have him/her write down the facts he/she learns.
- Write to family members.

Mathematics

At school, students will:

- Mentally add and subtract within 20.
- Use addition and subtraction up to 100 to solve one- and two-step word problems.
- Explain why addition and subtraction strategies work.
- Count within 1,000; skip count by 5s, 10s, and 100s.
- Understand the three digits of a three-digit number represent amounts of hundreds, tens, and ones.
- Compare two three-digit numbers based on meanings of the hundreds, tens, and ones digits using $>$, $<$, and $=$ symbols.

At home, you can:

- Give your child addition and subtraction problems to do mentally (in his/her head).
- Create word problems and have your child use addition and subtraction to solve them.
- Practice counting to 1,000. Ask your child to count on from any given number, 0–1,000.
- Choose two three-digit numbers and compare them using place values and using the $>$, $<$, and $=$ symbols.

On Common Ground

Third Grade, Trimester 1

Fall 2013



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

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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 multi-syllable 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.
- Use commas and quotation marks when using dialogue in writing.

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.
- Show your child how to use commas and quotation marks in writing.
- Encourage your child to write every day by keeping a journal or diary with his/her own stories.

Mathematics

At school, students will:

- Interpret products of whole numbers (e.g., 5×7 represents the total number of objects in 5 groups of 7 objects each).
- Interpret whole-number quotients of whole numbers (e.g., $56 \div 8$ is the number of objects in each share when 56 objects are divided equally into 8 shares).
- Use properties of operations to multiply and divide (e.g., If $6 \times 4 = 24$, then $4 \times 6 = 24$).
- Fluently multiply and divide within 100.
- Solve two-step problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

At home, you can:

- Encourage your child to interpret multiplication and division problems.
- Have your child practice multiplication and division within 100.
- Help your child understand the concepts of multiplication and division.
- Tell story problems involving more than one operation and have your child solve these problems.

On Common Ground

Fourth Grade, Trimester 1

Fall 2013



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

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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 the text.
- Read poetry accurately and expressively.

At home, you can:

- Ask your child to describe characters, settings, 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 informational 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 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.

Mathematics

At school, students will:

- Interpret multiplication as a comparison (e.g., $35 = 5 \times 7$ as 35 is 5 times as many as 7).
- Multiply or divide to solve word problems involving multiplicative comparison.
- Recognize that a digit in one place in a number represents ten times what it represents in the place to its right.
- Read, write, and compare multi-digit numbers using base-ten numerals, number names, and expanded form.
- Fluently add and subtract using the standard algorithm.
- Round whole numbers to any place value.

At home, you can:

- Practice explaining multiplication as a comparison.
- Encourage your child to use both drawings and equations when solving problems.
- Choose two numbers and have your child compare the numbers based on the meanings of the digits in their place.
- Practice rounding numbers to any place (e.g., round 2,939 to the hundreds place).

On Common Ground

Fifth Grade, Trimester 1

Fall 2013



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

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Reading

At school, students will:

- Quote accurately from a text when explaining what the text says.
- Compare and contrast overall structure (e.g., chronology, comparison, cause/effect, problem/solution) of events, ideas, concepts, or information in two or more texts.
- Determine two or more main ideas of a text and explain how they are supported by key details; summarize the text.
- Compare and contrast the overall structure of events, ideas, concepts, or information in two or more texts.

At home, you can:

- Ask your child questions about stories he/she is reading; have them use parts of the story to explain their thinking.
- Read news or magazine articles with your child. Discuss the main points of the article with them.
- Ask your child to compare events from two different stories or articles.
- Have your child summarize something he/she is reading.

Writing

At school, students will:

- Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons and information.
- Develop the topic with facts, definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples related to the topic
- Develop and strengthen writing by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach with support of peers and adults.
- Consider task, purpose, and audience when preparing to write.

At home, you can:

- Encourage your child to read text and write their opinion on the topic.
- Include your child in real-life writing experiences. For example, your family could write a letter to a family member to share recent events.
- Encourage your child to use facts when sharing his/her opinion.
- Encourage your child to use descriptive words in speaking and writing.

Mathematics

At school, students will:

- Fluently multiply multi-digit whole numbers.
- Read, write, and compare decimals to thousandths.
- Use place value understanding to round decimals to any place.
- Add and subtract fractions using models, drawings, and numbers.
- Solve word problems involving the addition and subtraction of fractions.
- Solve real world problems involving multiplication and division of fractions and mixed numbers by using visual models or equations.

At home, you can:

- Ask your child to compare prices of products at the store.
- Create two decimals to the thousandths and reason through comparing which is greater than, is less than, or is equal to the other.
- Practice multiplying whole digit numbers.
- Work with your child to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions.