

On Common Ground

Kindergarten, Trimester 2

Winter 2013/2014

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

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- 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.
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Reading

At school, students will:

- Ask and answer questions about key details in a text.
- Ask and answer questions about unknown words in a text.
- Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in familiar stories.
- Describe the connection between two individuals, events, ideas, or pieces of information in a text.
- Read common high-frequency words by sight (e.g., the, or, to, you, she, my, is, are, do).
- Associate the long and short sounds with common spellings for the five major vowels.

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.
- Read different stories and talk about how the characters are similar and different.
- Ask your child to describe different events or retell information in books you have read to him/her.
- Practice sounding out words with your child.

Writing

At school, students will:

- Use drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely-linked events; tell about the events in order; and provide a reaction to what happened.
- With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question through writing.
- Capitalize the first word in a sentence and the pronoun *I*.
- Spell simple words, drawing on knowledge of sound-letter relationships.

At home, you can:

- Set up a writing station at home where your child can write and draw; provide paper, markers, crayons, and other materials to encourage writing and drawing.
- Ask your child to write stories about events from his/her day; encourage him/her to include events in the order in which they took place.
- Encourage your child to capitalize the first word in a sentence and the pronoun *I*.

Mathematics

At school, students will:

- Solve and represent addition and subtraction problems up to 10 using objects, fingers, mental images, drawings, and sounds.
- Break apart numbers less than or equal to 10 into pairs in more than one way (e.g., $5 = 2 + 3$, $4 + 1 = 5$, and $5 = 5 + 0$).
- Fluently add and subtract within 5.
- Describe measurable attributes of objects, such as length or weight.
- Compare two objects with a measurable attribute in common to see which has "more of"/"less of" the attribute.
- Sort objects into categories.

At home, you can:

- Using sets of objects up to 10, practice combining (putting together 3 grapes and 4 grapes) and separating (taking 3 grapes away from 8 grapes). Create drawings to represent these problems.
- Ask your child to compare two objects (e.g., a pencil and a fork) to see which has more/less length or weight.
- Sort objects by characteristics (e.g., shape, size, weight).

On Common Ground



First Grade, Trimester 2

Winter 2013/2014

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

- Retell stories, including key details and demonstrate understanding of the central message or lesson.
- Compare and contrast the adventures and experiences of characters in stories.
- Know and use various text features (e.g., headings, table of contents, glossaries, electronic menus, icons) to locate key facts or information in a text.
- Know final -e and common vowel teams (e.g., oo, oa, ea) for representing long and short vowels.

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.
- Read different stories together and discuss the similarities and differences of the adventures of the characters.
- Read informational texts and Internet content together; use text features to find facts or information.

Writing

At school, students will:

- Write narratives that include two or more events in sequence, details of what happened, and closure.
- With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
- Use frequently occurring prepositions (e.g., during, beyond, toward).
- Use commas in dates and to separate single words in a series.
- Produce and expand sentences (simple and compound) in response to prompts.

At home, you can:

- Encourage your child to tell a sequence of events in his/her writing.
- Use books and Internet sources to gather information; have your child write about what he/she learned.
- Show your child how to use commas when writing dates (e.g., Tuesday, February 7, 2012).
- Show your child how to make simple sentences more complex.

Mathematics

At school, students will:

- Count to 120, starting at any number.
- Add and subtract within 20 and understand the relationship between addition and subtraction (e.g., $8 + 6 = 14$; $14 - 6 = 8$).
- Solve addition word problems that call for three whole numbers whose sum (total) is less than or equal to 20.
- Determine the unknown whole number in an addition or subtraction equation with three whole numbers (e.g., $6 + 2 + \underline{\quad} = 14$).
- Understand the two digits of a two-digit number represent amounts of tens and ones.
- Order three objects by length.

At home, you can:

- Have your child practice counting to 120 beginning at any number less than 120.
- Practice adding and subtracting numbers within 20.
- Discuss the relationship between addition and subtraction.
- Practice determining the unknown number in an addition or subtraction equation. For example, $14 = 3 + \underline{\quad} + 6$ and $9 - 2 - \underline{\quad} = 1$.

On Common Ground



Second Grade, Trimester 2

Winter 2013/2014

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

- Recount stories, including fables and folktales from diverse cultures and determine their central message, lesson, or moral.
- Identify the main topic of a multi-paragraph text as well as the focus of specific paragraphs within the text.
- Identify the main purpose of a text, including what the author wants to explain or describe.
- Explain how specific images (e.g., a diagram showing how a machine works) contribute to and clarify a text.
- Read words with common prefixes and suffixes (e.g., review, dancing).

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.
- Read informational texts together and discuss the main purpose of the text; locate the main topics of sections of text.
- Discuss how diagrams and illustrations support an informational text.
- Find words with prefixes and suffixes.

Writing

At school, students will:

- Write narrative pieces that include a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, details to describe actions, thoughts and feelings, and a sense of closure.
- Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., record science observations, read books on a topic, and write a report).
- Use adjectives and adverbs, and choose between them depending on what is to be modified.
- Use an apostrophe to form contractions (e.g., can't, we'll) and frequently occurring possessives (e.g., mom's car, the dog's bone).

At home, you can:

- Encourage your child to keep a personal journal or diary to tell about things he/she knows or has learned.
- Write stories together.
- Share with your child ways you write in everyday life.
- Help your child understand adjectives and adverbs and how to use them in writing.
- Show your child different contractions he/she can use in writing.

Mathematics

At school, students will:

- Read and write numbers to 1,000 using base-ten numerals, number names, and expanded form (e.g., 137, one hundred thirty-seven, $100 + 30 + 7$).
- Add and subtract within 1,000.
- Determine whether a group of objects up to 20 has an odd or even amount by pairing objects or counting by twos.
- Recognize and draw shapes with specific attributes (e.g., number of angles).
- Divide circles and rectangles into two, three, or four equal parts; use the words *halves*, *thirds*, *half of*, *a third of*.

At home, you can:

- Have your child practice writing numbers using base-ten numerals, number names, and expanded form.
- Practice adding up to four two-digit numbers.
- Practice determining whether a group of objects is odd or even.
- Ask your child to count the number of angles or faces on a given object (e.g., a cereal box).

On Common Ground



Third Grade, Trimester 2

Winter 2013/2014

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

- 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.
- Read words with common Latin suffixes (e.g., flexible, loyalty, action).

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.

Writing

At school, students will:

- Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
- Introduce a topic and group related information together.
- Develop a topic with facts, definitions, and details.
- Provide a concluding statement or section.
- Use technology to produce and publish writing (using keyboarding skills) as well as to interact and collaborate with others.
- Form and use possessives (e.g., its, hers, theirs).

At home, you can:

- Encourage your child to keep a personal journal or diary to explain things he/she knows or learns.
- Show your child how to use informational books and the Internet to locate information; use the information to write informative text.
- Help your child add details to support his/her ideas.
- Show your child how to use possessives in writing.

Mathematics

At school, students will:

- Fluently add and subtract within 1,000.
- Solve word problems within 1,000 using multiplication and division.
- Develop understanding of fractions as numbers (e.g., a fraction $1/b$ is one part of a whole that is partitioned into equal parts (b); fractions are numbers on a number line).
- Compare fractions by reasoning about their size and generate simple fraction equivalents (e.g., $1/2 = 2/4$, $4/6 = 2/3$).
- Tell and write time to the nearest minute and measure time intervals in minutes.
- Understand concepts of area measurements.

At home, you can:

- Create and solve story problems involving equal groups and measurement quantities.
- Explain how fractions are used in everyday life (e.g., cooking, measuring lumber).
- Discuss how fractions and dividing shapes into equal parts are related.
- Practice telling time to the nearest minute and determining elapsed time in minutes.

On Common Ground



Fourth Grade, Trimester 2

Winter 2013/2014

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

- 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, settings).
- Compare and contrast point of view from which different stories are narrated, including between first- and third-person narrations.
- Explain how an author uses reasons and evidence to support points in a text.

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 settings.
- 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 within 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.

Mathematics

At school, students will:

- Generate a number or shape pattern that follows a given rule.
- Multiply a whole number of up to four digits by one digit (e.g., $4,291 \times 6$) and multiply two two-digit numbers (e.g., 23×91).
- Find whole-number quotients and remainders with up to four-digit dividends and one-digit divisors (e.g., $5,941 \div 6$).
- Add and subtract fractions referring to the same whole.
- Draw and identify points, lines, line segments, rays, angles, and perpendicular and parallel lines.

At home, you can:

- Practice multiplying and dividing large numbers by a one-digit number.
- Practice multiplying two two-digit numbers.
- Discuss number patterns created when starting with a given number, such as 1, and stating a given rule, such as add 4.
- Practice identifying lines and angles in two-dimensional figures.

On Common Ground



Fifth Grade, Trimester 2

Winter 2013/2014

This newsletter provides an overview of what your child will learn based on the Common Core State Standards during the second 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.
- Determine the theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text, including how characters in a story or drama respond to challenges or how the speaker in a poem reflects upon a topic; summarize the text.
- Compare and contrast two or more characters, settings, or events in a story.
- Determine the meaning of figurative language such as metaphors and similes.
- Describe how a narrator's or speaker's point of view influences how events are described.

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 with one another.
- Read stories or dramas together; discuss the characters and their challenges.
- Look for similes and metaphors in books and poetry.
- Find books to read that include narration.

Writing

At school, students will:

- Write narrative stories using effective techniques, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
- Use dialogue, description, and pacing to develop experiences and events or show the responses of characters to situations.
- Use words, phrases, and sensory details to convey experiences and events precisely.
- 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 keep a personal journal or diary to tell his/her own stories.
- Include your child in real-life writing experiences (e.g., your family could write a letter to a family member to share recent events).
- Show your child how to use quotation marks to show someone speaking.
- Encourage your child to use descriptive words in speaking and writing.

Mathematics

At school, students will:

- Find whole-number quotients of whole numbers up to four-digit dividends and two-digit divisors.
- Divide fractions by whole numbers and whole numbers by fractions.
- Estimate and convert units of measurement (customary and metric) for weight, volume, and capacity.
- Measure volume using cubic centimeters, cubic inches, and cubic feet.
- Display data in fractions on line plots.
- Use parentheses, brackets, or braces in numerical expressions.

At home, you can:

- Have your child estimate and measure weights and volumes of household items (e.g., cereal boxes, toy chest, shoe box).
- Divide fractions using visual models.
- Interpret numerical expressions without simplifying (solving) them (e.g., express $2 \times (8 + 7)$ as add 8 and 7, then multiply by 2).