

# On Common Ground

Kindergarten, Trimester 3

Spring 2014



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

- Ask and answer questions about key details in text.
- Actively engage in group reading activities.
- Read common high-frequency words (e.g., the, or, you, to, she, my).
- Identify new meanings for familiar words and apply them accurately (e.g., knowing duck is a bird and learning the verb to duck).
- Use the most frequently occurring affixes (e.g., -ed, -s, re-, pre-, -ful, -less) as a clue to the meaning of unknown words.

### At home, you can:

- Ask your child questions about stories he/she is reading; 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 from books.
- Read stories with high-frequency words.

## Writing

### At school, students will:

- Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose opinion pieces in which students tell the topic or the name of a book they are writing about and state an opinion or preference about the topic or book (e.g., My favorite book is...).
- With guidance and support from adults, write to respond to questions from peers to strengthen their writing.
- With guidance and support from adults, use digital tools to produce and publish writing.
- Use words and phrases acquired through conversations and reading activities when writing.

### 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 about stories.
- Encourage your child to share what he/she liked and/or did not like about a story.
- Encourage your child to use capital letters at the beginning of sentences.

## Mathematics

### At school, students will:

- Compose (put together) and decompose (break apart) numbers from 11 to 19 into ten ones and some more ones using objects and drawings.
- Describe similarities and differences when comparing two-dimensional and three-dimensional shapes (e.g., the number of sides and vertices (corners) and having sides of the same length).
- Compose simple shapes to form larger shapes (e.g., joining two triangles with full sides touching to form a rectangle).

### At home, you can:

- Choose a number from 11 to 19, draw a set of ten objects, then draw "that many more ones" to make the chosen number. Represent this with an equation (e.g.,  $15 = 10 + 5$ ).
- Find shapes, such as a cube and a square. Discuss how these are similar and different.
- Draw and cut out shapes. Create larger shapes out of two smaller shapes.

# On Common Ground

First Grade, Trimester 3

Spring 2014



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

- With prompting and support, read prose, poetry, and informational texts appropriately complex for first grade.
- Be able to read texts silently and orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression.
- Decode two-syllable words following basic patterns by breaking the words into syllables.
- Be able to confirm or self-correct using word recognition, understanding, and rereading as necessary.

### 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.
- Encourage your child to read both orally and silently.
- Read informational texts and Internet content; use text features to find facts or information.
- Practice breaking apart and reading two-syllable words.

## Writing

### At school, students will:

- Write opinion pieces; include the topic or name of the book written about, state an opinion, supply a reason for the opinion, and provide some sense of closure.
- Use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing.
- Produce complete sentences when appropriate to the specific task and the situation.
- Use words newly acquired from reading and being read to.
- Respond to stories and texts by speaking and writing.

### At home, you can:

- Encourage your child to keep a personal journal or diary to tell his/her own stories.
- Use books and Internet sources to gather information; have your child write about what he/she learned.
- Encourage your child to write short pieces to share their opinion on a book.
- Work with your child as he/she practices writing complete sentences.

## Mathematics

### At school, students will:

- Mentally find 10 more or 10 less than a given two-digit number.
- Compare two-digit numbers using  $>$ ,  $<$ ,  $=$ .
- Tell and write time in hours and half-hours using analog and digital clocks.
- Distinguish characteristics of shapes (e.g., triangles have three sides and are closed figures).
- Combine two- or three-dimensional shapes to create other shapes.
- Divide circles and rectangles into two and four equal shares and describe the shares using the words *halves*, *fourths*, and *quarters*.

### At home, you can:

- Give your child a two-digit number (e.g., 27). Ask, "What number is 10 more?" and "What number is 10 less?"
- Practice reading digital and analog clocks at the hour and half-hour. Explain the difference between the minute and hour hand on an analog clock.
- Practice drawing shapes (e.g., squares, triangles, rectangles). Discuss their features.

# On Common Ground

Second Grade, Trimester 3

Spring 2014



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

- Recognize differences in the points of view of characters, including speaking in a different voice for each character when reading aloud.
- Acknowledge differences in the points of view of characters, including speaking in a different voice for each character when reading dialogue aloud.
- Describe connections between historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text.
- Describe how characters in a story respond to major events and challenges.

### 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 certain sections of the text.
- Discuss characters and their actions as you read stories together.

## Writing

### At school, students will:

- Write opinion pieces; include a topic, state an opinion, supply reasons that support the opinion, use linking words (e.g., because, also), and provide a concluding statement or section.
- Use a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing.
- Produce complete sentences appropriate to the task and situation.
- Create audio recordings of stories or poems; add drawings or other visual displays to stories or recounts of experiences, when appropriate, to clarify ideas, thoughts, and feelings.

### At home, you can:

- Encourage your child to keep a personal journal or diary to tell about things he/she knows or have learned.
- Read informational and literary text and have your child write about his/her opinions on the text.
- Encourage your child to use linking words to create more complex sentences (e.g., The story was exciting **because...**).
- Read articles and stories on the Internet together.

## Mathematics

### At school, students will:

- Measure the length of objects using rulers, yardsticks, meter sticks, and measuring tapes.
- Generate measurement data by measuring lengths of several objects to the nearest whole unit, or by making repeated measurements of the same object.
- Estimate the length of objects using inches, feet, centimeters, and meters.
- Tell and write time from analog and digital clocks to the nearest five minutes.
- Solve word problems using dollar bills, quarters, dimes, nickels, and pennies, using \$ and ¢ symbols appropriately.

### At home, you can:

- Estimate the length of objects. Practice measuring using standard tools (e.g., ruler, meter stick, measuring tape).
- Practice telling time on analog and digital clocks. Practice writing the time.
- Practice counting money and solving basic problems where you child can add or subtract money. Practice writing monetary amounts.

# On Common Ground

Third Grade, Trimester 3

Spring 2014



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

- Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.
- Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text.
- Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic.
- Decode multi-syllable words and words with common Latin suffixes (e.g., -able, -ation, -ment)

### At home, you can:

- Read different types of books together, including fables, folktales, and myths; discuss the points of view of the character(s).
- Read different texts written on the same topic and compare the important points and key details.
- Read informational texts and Internet sources together; use text features and search tools to find information.

## Writing

### At school, students will:

- 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 linking words and phrases (e.g., because, therefore, another, also, for example) to connect ideas or opinions.
- Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking clearly at an understandable pace.

### 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.
- Show your child how to use informational and literary texts and the Internet to locate information; use the information to formulate an opinion and write about it.
- Help your child add details and reasons to support his/her opinions.

## Mathematics

### At school, students will:

- Compare two fractions with the same numerator or same denominator by reasoning about their size.
- Measure and estimate liquid volumes and masses of objects using standard units (e.g., grams, kilograms, and liters).
- Partition shapes into parts with equal areas and express the area of each part as a unit fraction of the whole (e.g., a whole divided into 4 parts where the area of each part is  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the whole).
- Solve real world and mathematical problems involving perimeters of polygons.

### At home, you can:

- Practice comparing two fractions (e.g.,  $\frac{2}{3}$  and  $\frac{2}{10}$ ) using reasoning, such as "If I have two-thirds of a cracker, I have more than if I had two-tenths of a cracker. Each of 10 equal parts of a cracker are smaller in size than each of 3 equal parts of a cracker."
- Practice measuring and estimating liquid volumes and masses of objects.

# On Common Ground

Fourth Grade, Trimester 3

Spring 2014



This newsletter provides an overview of what your child will learn based on the Common Core State Standards during the third 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 meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text.
- Compare and contrast the treatments of similar themes and topics (e.g., good vs. evil) in stories, myths, and traditional literature from different cultures.
- Explain events, procedures, ideas, or concepts in an informational text. Explain what happened and why based on specific details from the text.
- Read two informational texts and use the information to speak about a subject knowledgeably.

### 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.
- Find stories, myths, and traditional literature at the library or on the Internet; discuss with your child themes and topics of the texts.
- Discuss informational texts on a topic of interest to your child.

## Writing

### At school, students will:

- Write opinion pieces on topics or texts. Support a point of view and include reasons or information for that point of view.
- Use technology to produce and publish writing as well as to interact and collaborate with others; demonstrate keyboarding skills in order to type one page of text in a single sitting.
- Conduct short research projects that allow students to investigate a topic and build knowledge of that topic.
- Add audio recordings and visual displays to presentations.

### 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 practice typing on the computer.

## Mathematics

### At school, students will:

- Use knowledge of multiplication to multiply a fraction by a whole number.
- Express a fraction with a denominator of 10 as an equivalent fraction with a denominator of 100 (e.g.,  $3/10 = 30/100$ ).
- Use decimal notation for fractions with denominators 10 or 100 (e.g., rewrite  $0.62$  as  $62/100$ ).
- Use the four operations to solve word problems involving time, volume, and money.
- Recognize angles as geometric shapes that are formed when two rays share the same endpoint.

### At home, you can:

- Practice showing fractions by creating models or drawings when given a fraction as a number.
- Look for angles all around. Name the angles (e.g., straight, right, obtuse, acute).
- Practice adding and subtracting monetary amounts when shopping, creating budgets, or paying bills.
- Practice using a protractor to measure angles.

# On Common Ground

Fifth Grade, Trimester 3

Spring 2014



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

- Compare and contrast stories in the same genre (e.g., mysteries, adventures) on their approaches to similar themes and topics.
- Analyze how visual and multimedia elements (e.g., graphic novels, multimedia presentations of fiction, folktales) contribute to the meaning, tone, or beauty of a text.
- Read many texts on the same topic in order to write or speak knowledgeably about a subject.
- Compare and contrast different varieties of English (e.g., dialects, registers) used in stories, dramas, or poems.

### 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 themes.
- Go to the library or look online for books and articles on a topic that is of interest to your child.

## Writing

### At school, students will:

- Use several resources to investigate a topic; create research projects based on research.
- Use technology to produce and publish writing. Demonstrate adequate typing skills to type a minimum of two pages in a single sitting.
- Recognize and explain the meaning of common idioms (e.g., He was feeling under the weather), adages (e.g., Good things come in small packages), and proverbs (e.g., Absence makes the heart grow fonder).

### At home, you can:

- Encourage your child to keep a personal journal or diary to record his/her own stories.
- Include your child in real-life writing experiences (e.g., writing letters or e-mails to family members) and encourage the use of idioms, adages, and proverbs.
- Encourage your child to practice typing on the computer. There are many free typing activities and games for kids on the Internet.

## Mathematics

### At school, students will:

- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals to hundredths, using models or drawings or strategies based on place value.
- Solve real world problems involving division of fractions by a non-zero whole number using visual models to represent the problem.
- Relate volume to multiplication and addition to solve problems involving volume.
- Convert among different-sized standard measurement units within the same measurement system (e.g. convert 5 cm to 0.05m).
- Classify two-dimensional figures based on their properties.

### At home, you can:

- Add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals.
- Practice solving real-world problems dividing fractions by a whole number (e.g., how much pizza will each person get if 3 people share  $1/2$  of a pizza equally?).
- Use a ruler to measure items in feet or meters. Convert the whole-number measurement from feet to inches or from meters to centimeters.