

On Common Ground

Kindergarten, Trimester 3

Spring 2012



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.
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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 in books.
- Look for high-frequency words in stories.

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 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.

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

Mathematics

At school, students will:

- Compare two numbers between 1 and 10 presented as written numerals.
- 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 object has "more of"/"less of" the attribute, and describe the difference.
- Break apart numbers less than or equal to 10 into pairs in more than one way (e.g., $5 = 2 + 3$ and $5 = 4 + 1$).

At home, you can:

- Practice adding and subtracting within 5. Use objects to practice (e.g., "If I have 1 orange and you have 2 oranges, how many do we have altogether?") and practice writing math sentences (e.g., $1 + 2 = 3$).
- Ask your child to describe objects (e.g., a pencil and a fork) by comparing length and weight.
- Practice writing numbers.

On Common Ground

First Grade, Trimester 3

Spring 2012



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 together; use text features to find facts or information.
- Practice reading and breaking apart 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 task and situation.
- Use words newly acquired through reading, being read to, and responding to texts in 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.
- Practice writing complete sentences.

Mathematics

At school, students will:

- Add and subtract within 20 and understand the relationship between addition and subtraction (e.g., $8 + 6 = 14$; $14 - 6 = 8$).
- Add within 100 by adding a two-digit number to a one-digit number (e.g., $38 + 6 = 44$) and adding a two-digit number and a multiple of 10 (e.g., $38 + 10 = 48$; $38 + 30 = 68$).
- Given a two-digit number, mentally find 10 more or 10 less than the number without having to count.
- Combine two- or three-dimensional shapes to create other shapes.

At home, you can:

- Practice adding and subtracting within 20.
- Discuss the relationship between addition and subtraction.
- Practice adding a two-digit number to a one-digit number with sums up to 100.
- Ask your child addition problems to solve mentally (e.g., "What is $26 + 10$? What is $68 - 30$?")

On Common Ground

Second Grade, Trimester 3

Spring 2012



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.
- Compare and contrast two or more versions of the same story (e.g., Cinderella stories) by different authors from different cultures.
- 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 or book written about, 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 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:

- Add up to four two-digit numbers using strategies based on place value and properties of operations (e.g., $13 + 22 + 15 + 38$).
- Add and subtract within 1,000 (e.g., $324 + 591$).
- Solve word problems that involve monetary amounts (e.g., $\$1.34 + \2.69).
- Generate measurement data by measuring lengths of several objects to the nearest whole unit, or by making repeated measurements of the same object.

At home, you can:

- Practice adding up to four two-digit numbers together.
- Practice adding and subtracting within 1,000.
- Ask questions that lead to practice of adding prices of items (e.g., "How much will it cost to buy a gallon of milk and a dozen eggs?")
- Practice measuring using standard tools (e.g., ruler, meter stick) and non-standard tools (e.g., paper clip).

On Common Ground

Third Grade, Trimester 3

Spring 2012



This newsletter provides an overview of what your child will learn based on the Common Core State Standards and Nevada 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.
- Refer to parts of stories, dramas, and poems when writing or speaking about a text.
- Decode multisyllable 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:

- Create and solve two-step addition and subtraction problems.
- Determine the unknown number in a multiplication or division equation relating three whole numbers (e.g., $3 \times \underline{\quad} = 24$; $72 \div \underline{\quad} = 9$).
- Explain equivalence of fractions (e.g., $1/2 = 2/4$). Express whole numbers as fractions (e.g., $2 = 4/2$).
- Tell time in half hour increments, using both digital and analog clocks.
- Create two-dimensional designs that contain a line of symmetry.

At home, you can:

- Practice solving two-step addition and subtraction problems.
- Help your child understand the concepts of multiplication and division.
- Practice reading clocks.
- Look for objects in nature and around the house that have a line of symmetry.
- Discuss how fractions and dividing shapes into equal parts are related.

On Common Ground

Fourth Grade, Trimester 3

Spring 2012



This newsletter provides an overview of what your child will learn based on the Common Core State Standards and Nevada 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 themes and topics of the texts.
- Discuss informational texts on a topic of interest to the 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:

- Estimate and measure temperatures, lengths, areas, and weight.
- Identify, draw, and classify angles, including straight, right, obtuse, and acute.
- Draw and identify points, lines, line segments, ray, angles, and perpendicular and parallel lines.
- Model and compute range (i.e., the difference between the largest and smallest number in a set).
- Model mean (i.e., average), median (i.e., middle number), and mode (i.e., most frequently occurring number) when given a set.

At home, you can:

- Practice estimating outdoor temperatures and confirm by checking the current weather conditions on the Internet.
- Estimate weights, lengths, and areas.
- Look at sets of numbers and determine the range, mean, median, and mode.
- Look for angles in everyday life. Determine the types of angles (e.g., straight, right, obtuse, acute).

On Common Ground

Fifth Grade, Trimester 3

Spring 2012



This newsletter provides an overview of what your child will learn based on the Common Core State Standards and Nevada 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, adventure stories) on the 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 characters and their challenges.
- 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 tell 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:

- Determine equivalent periods of time (e.g., 4 weeks = 28 days; 150 minutes = 2 1/2 hours).
- Estimate and convert units of measurement (customary and metric) for weight and volume/capacity.
- Measure volumes by counting unit cubes, using cubic centimeters, cubic inches, and cubic feet.
- Solve real-life problems involving volume.
- Make line plots to display data. Include measurements in fractions of a unit on the line plot.

At home, you can:

- Ask your child questions to determine equivalent periods of time (e.g., "How many minutes are in 3 1/2 hours?")
- Have your child measure volume of household items (e.g., cereal boxes, toy chest, shoe box). Ask him/her to estimate the volume prior to measuring.
- Look for data displays in texts and on the Internet. Analyze the data together.