

## Common Core Standards Information

Spring Creek Middle School is teaching basic subjects in a new way.

For more information about Common Core State Standards:

- talk with your child's teacher;
- visit your state education department's website;
- go online to <http://www.corestandards.org> for the website of the Common Core State Standards Initiative; or
- go online to <http://www.pta.org> search for "Parents' Guide to Student Success."

This guide tells you why this is happening and how you can help your child succeed.

### **What are Common Core State Standards?**

- These are new guidelines that describe what children should learn in each grade, from K-12.
- These same standards are being used in more than 40 states, as well as the District of Columbia and 4 U.S. territories.

### **Why are so many states using Common Core?**

- With common standards, public school students will be learning the same skills in the same grade levels no matter where they live.
- Many students now graduate without needed skills. This effort will ensure that high school graduates are ready for college or a career.

### **How is Common Core different?**

- The Common Core guidelines are tougher than what most states had before. They encourage students to learn more at lower grade levels.
- Students and teachers clearly know what is expected of them.
- Parents know what is expected of their children.

### **What subjects does Common Core cover?**

- The standards affect how children will learn math and English language arts (reading, writing, listening, and speaking).
- Common Core focuses on math and English because these are basic skills that students must have to learn other subjects.

### **Who created these standards?**

- The National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers organized the effort to set up Common Core.
- Experts, teachers, and parents from across the country worked together to create the standards.

### **What is the U.S. government's role in Common Core?**

- The federal government did not create the Common Core guidelines and does not require them.
- Your state chose to adopt Common Core.

### **How will Common Core affect my child?**

- The new standards expect more from your child.
- Students will learn much more, but about fewer topics. This will give them a chance to better understand what is being taught.
- Students will be taught important skills and ideas in earlier grades.

### **Will the standardized tests change?**

Many states will be using new standardized tests in 2014-2015 based on the Common Core guidelines.

### **Does Common Core tell teachers how to teach?**

Common Core spells out what students are expected to know and be able to do at each grade level. It does not tell schools or teacher what to do or what materials to use to meet the learning goals.

### [How common core changes math.](#)

#### **Approach**

- Teachers will present fewer math topics to student each year, but students will spend time learning these topics better.
- More assignments will be about how math is used in the real world such as in recipes or in building a fence.

#### **Skills**

- Student will have more word problems to work.
- Students will have to show how they solve math problems. They also must be able to explain their thinking and the tools they used to solve the problem. Plus, they must be able to defend their answers.

#### **Topics**

- Younger student are expected to learn addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions, and decimals.
- Students will build on these basic math skills and learn new ones as they move to higher grades.

### [How common core changes reading.](#)

#### **Approach**

- Students will read more nonfiction books and articles about real-world facts. They will read about half nonfiction and half fiction.
- The materials student read may be harder, but more time will be spent in class talking about it.

## **Skills**

- Students will be asked to read more closely and to think more about what they've read.
- Student will be asked to talk and write more about what they've read, using facts and details.
- Student will learn more words.

## **Materials**

By the time they graduate from high school, students must read classic myths and stories from around the world; America's founding documents, such as the Declaration of Independence; American literature; and Shakespeare. Specific books and other reading materials are left up to local schools.

### [How you can help your child succeed at school.](#)

- Talk with your child about school each day. Say, "What did you work on today?" or "Tell me about something you read."
- Set aside a quiet place in your home for your child to do schoolwork. At least once a week, sit down with your child to see what he/she is working on.
- Let your child know that you expect him/her to do well. Explain that these new standards will help your child succeed at college or a job.
- Stay positive and encourage your child. Under the new standards, children are expected to learn and know more. It may take some time for your child to adjust.
- Talk with the teacher regularly about how your child is doing at school. If your child is struggling, ask about getting your child some extra help.
- Be a role model. Let your child see you read and do math.
- Read together and discuss the ideas, characters, and information you've read about.
- Show how you use math to solve everyday problems, from grocery shopping to paying the bills.