



DALLASTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

PA Common Core State Standards

English Language Arts Parent Tips – 3rd Grade

What are Common Core State Standards?

The Common Core State Standards were created to clearly communicate what is expected of students at each grade level.

- The standards were coordinated by the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices (NGS Center) and the Council for Chief School Officers (CCSSO) as well as committees of teachers, administrators and other interested parties.
- Pennsylvania adopted the state standards on July 1, 2010. The standards were created to support the needs of PA students. All standards in K-5 are to be in place for the 2013-2014 school year with standards in grades 6 -12 in place by the 2014-2015 school year.

Why do we need common educational standards?

Every child across the country deserves to be given the tools they need to be successful and competitive in post-secondary education and the workforce.

- The Common Core provides a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them.
- The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that students need for success in college and the workforce.

What are the principles of the Common Core?

- Students **achieve at high levels**.
- Students must be **college and career ready**.
- Students will have **continuity of curriculum** no matter where they go to school.
- Curriculum is rich in **content knowledge** within and across grade levels.
- Students read **increasingly complex texts** with **increasing independence**.

What will my child be working on in Third Grade?

- Reading to find main idea and details in a story as well as describing how the story teaches a lesson
- Identifying and describing the logical connection between sentences and paragraphs in a story (example: first, second third; cause and effect)
- Comparing the most important points and key ideas/details from two books on the same topic.
- Writing opinions or explanations that group related information from books, articles, and on-line sources in order to develop topics with facts and details.
- Writing stories that develop a situation and include details and clear sequence of events that describe the actions, thoughts, and feelings of the characters.
- Conducting short research projects that build knowledge about a topic, independently.
- Participating in class discussions by listening, asking questions, sharing ideas and building on the ideas of others.
- Reading stories and poems aloud fluently, without pause to determine meaning.
- Learning and using new words, including words related to specific subjects such as science and social studies.
- Spelling correctly and using resources to clarify meanings of words.

What can I do at home to support my child?

1. Provide time and space for your child to read independently. This time should be free from distractions such as TV and video games.
2. Encourage your child to find a picture from a newspaper or magazine, cut it out, paste it on paper and write a story about it.
3. It is important for your child to see other people reading in your home. Take time to share what you are reading.
4. Ask your child what topics, events or activities they like to learn about. Look for books and on-line resources on this topic. This is great motivation to learn and read.
5. Start a family vocabulary box or jar. Have everyone write down new words they discover, add them to the box and use the words in conversation.
6. Be sure to visit the local library for a library card. Not only can your child borrow books from the library but the library has a wealth of on-line resources that are available if you have a library card. Visit the Kaltreider Library, Martin Memorial Library or the Jacobus Library as well as visit www.yorklibraries.org.
7. Start a family book club. Let different members of the family pick the book and discuss the book by talking about the characters, the best part, the worst part and making connections to other books as well as the lesson to be learned in the book.

What questions should I ask my child's teacher?

It is important for you, as the parent, to build a positive relationship with your child's teacher. You can do this by talking to your child's teacher regularly about how your child is doing. Do not wait until progress reports or parent teacher conferences.

Grade three conversations can focus on:

- Reading a variety of grade-level book and articles fluently
- Writing and speaking and following the correct rules of punctuation and grammar

Ask the following questions:

- Is my child at the level where he/she should be at this point in the school year?
- Is my child's work satisfactory? How could it be better?
- How can I help my child improve or excel in this area?
- What do you think is giving my child the most trouble?
- Where is my child excelling? How can I support this success?
- If my child needs extra support or wants to learn more about a topic, are there resources to help with learning inside and outside of the classroom?

Resources

Pennsylvania Common Core Standards: <http://www.pdesas.org/Standard/CommonCore>

Common Core State Standards Homepage: <http://www.corestandards.org>

Parent's Guide to Student Success: <http://pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2583>