



DALLASTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

PA Common Core State Standards

English Language Arts Parent Tips – 1st 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 First Grade?

- Describing, asking and answering questions about characters, settings, and major events in a story using key details.
- Getting facts and information from different writings.
- Using phonics (matching letters and sounds) and word analysis skills to figure out unfamiliar words.
- Explaining differences between texts that tell stories and texts that provide information.
- Identifying the reasons an author gives to support a point.
- Writing to describe an event, provide information on a topic, or share an opinion.
- Producing and expanding complete simple compound statements, questions, commands and exclamations.
- Writing an opinion about a book he or she has read, using important details from the materials to support the opinion.
- Comparing and contrasting the experiences of different characters.
- Working together to gather facts and information on a topic.
- Participating in class discussions by listening, responding to what others are saying, and asking questions and building on what others are saying.

What can I do at home to support my child?

1. Encourage your child to read to you. Help him or her stretch out difficult words.
2. Act out stories together from books, TV or your child's imagination. Be creative!
3. Provide time and space for your child to read independently. Make sure this time is free from distractions such as TV and video games.
4. Pick a "word of the day" each day starting with a different letter. Have your child write the word and look for other things or write other words starting with the same letter.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Ask your child what topics, events or activities he or she likes and look for books, magazines and on-line resources that will motivate him or her to learn and want to read.

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 one conversations can focus on:

- Reading grade-level books with understanding and fluency.
- Learning from, enjoying, and getting facts from books that your child reads and listens to.

Ask the following questions:

- Is my child at the level where he/she should be at this point in the school year?
- How is my child doing in writing? (Ask to see a sample)
- What are my child's strengths and weaknesses?
- 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>