

Nuuanu School Welcomes the Common Core State Standards For Grades K, 1 and 2 in School Year 2011-2012!

Teachers are busily preparing for the introduction of the new Common Core State Standards (CCSS). As the new school year approaches, the transition begins with the alignment of lessons to the new standards utilizing the present Language Arts and Math programs here at Nuuanu. It is our goal to carefully assemble a set of learning experiences for your child that revolves around the new rigorous standards.

Please note that although new standards have been written for all grade levels, immediate implementation of the CCSS will begin in school year 2011-2012 for grades Kindergarten, 1, 2, 11, and 12 for English Language Arts and Math (in high school, this is Algebra II). All other grades will continue to use the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards III and begin to incorporate the CCSS in school year 2013-2014 with full implementation occurring in SY 2014-2015.

Background

The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state led effort coordinated by the National Governors' Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). A memorandum of agreement signed by former Governor Linda Lingle, and the Department of Education Superintendent on June 1, 2009, committed Hawaii to participate in the process of developing these standards. In June 2010, the CCSSO and NGA released a set of state-led education standards for English Language Arts and Mathematics. Following this, the Hawaii State Board of Education formally adopted the Common Core State Standards.

The primary focus behind this initiative is the end goal of a high school graduate who is fully prepared for college and careers. The CCSS are:

- Aligned with college and work expectations*
- Clear, understandable and consistent*
- Evidence based and researched*
- Built upon strengths and lessons of current state standards*
- Internationally benchmarked so that all students are prepared to succeed in our global marketplace*

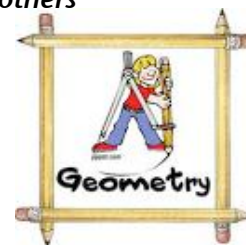


The Common Core State Standards

Mathematics

The Mathematics standards in grades K-8 provides a solid foundation in whole numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions and decimals. "Mathematical Practices" and the ability to think mathematically, rather than through computation, are the focused outcomes of the CCSS. "Mathematical Practices" are defined as:

- Making sense of problems and persevere in solving them*
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively*
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others*
- Model with mathematics*
- Use appropriate tools strategically*
- Attend to precision*
- Look for and make use of structure*
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning*



The Domains or “Big Ideas” in Mathematics include:

- Counting and Cardinality (Gr. K)
- Operations and Algebraic Thinking (K-4)
- Numbers and Operations in Base Ten (K-5)
- Numbers and Operations: Fractions (3-5)
- Measurement and Data (K-5)
- Geometry (K-5)



English Language Arts (ELA)

The ELA curriculum is based on College and Career Ready (CCR) anchor standards. These anchor standards are the broad goals and expectations for students when they leave high school. Briefly, the CCR expectations are:

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
- Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

CCR goals are addressed in the classroom through Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, and Language known as STRANDS. Within each strand are STANDARDS. Standards are the specific student expectations that clearly define what they should know and be able to demonstrate. Two important skills for all students in ELA are emphasized: 1) the reading of grade level texts of appropriate difficulty and sophistication and 2) the ability to write an opinion paper (at the secondary level, this is an argument paper).

Reading: Reading Literary, Reading Information, Foundational Skills (K-5)

This standard includes print concepts, phonological awareness, phonics, word recognition, fluency and comprehension. A diverse array of classic and contemporary literature as well as informational texts is presented to the students at every grade level.

Writing: Types of writing: Narrative, Informational, Explanatory, and Opinion

This standard develop a student’s ability to plan, revise, edit and publish many compositions including research writing. A special emphasis on the ability to write opinion papers based on personal experiences and relevant evidence is seen as the cornerstone of writing and begins in the earliest grades.

Speaking and Listening: Flexible Communication and Collaboration

This standard requires students to gain, evaluate, and present increasingly complex information, ideas, and evidence through various media. Collaboration with peers and guidance from adults contribute to the process of building understanding and building problem solving skills.

Language: Conventions of Standard English, effective use of vocabulary

The Language Standards are the “rules” of standard written and spoken English. Vocabulary growth through conversation, direct study and reading strategies help students to determine word meaning, appreciate the nuances of words and to expand their utilization of language.

We urge you to learn more about the Common Core State Standards at www.corestandards.org and the Nuuanu Website for tips on helping your child at home.

