**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.
- The standards are also benchmarked to international standards to guarantee that students are competitive in the emerging global marketplace.

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### Reading

**At school, students will:**
- Describe the traits, motivations, or feelings of characters in a story and how their actions impact the story’s events.
- Explain how specific aspects of a text’s illustrations contribute to the mood of a story or emphasize aspects of a character or setting.
- Identify the main idea of a text and recount key details that support the main idea.
- Use information gained from text features, such as maps and photographs to understand the text.
- Read multi-syllable words.

**At home, you can:**
- Talk to your child about books they are reading. Ask him/her to explain the characters and the decisions the characters make in the story.
- Read stories and articles together. Discuss the main idea and find details that support the main idea.
- Read informational texts, such as news articles or magazines. Point out maps and photographs.

### Writing

**At school, students will:**
- Write narrative stories to share real or imaginative experiences or events, including a situation and a narrator and/or characters.
- Develop experiences and events in a story that unfold smoothly and naturally and provide a sense of closure.
- Use temporal words and phrases, such as “eventually” or “the following day.”
- Take brief notes from print and digital sources and sort notes into categories.
- Use commas and quotation marks when using dialogue in writing.

**At home, you can:**
- Write narrative stories together, where all family members contribute to a story. Your child can do all the writing, or the whole family can take turns writing.
- Show your child how to use commas and quotation marks in writing.
- Encourage your child to write every day by keeping a journal or diary with his/her own stories.

### Mathematics

**At school, students will:**
- Interpret products of whole numbers (e.g., 5 x 7 represents the total number of objects in 5 groups of 7 objects each).
- Interpret whole-number quotients of whole numbers (e.g., 56 ÷ 8 is the number of objects in each share when 56 objects are divided equally into 8 shares).
- Use properties of operations to multiply and divide (e.g., If 6 x 4 = 24, then 4 x 6 = 24).
- Fluently multiply and divide within 100.
- Solve two-step problems using addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

**At home, you can:**
- Encourage your child to interpret multiplication and division problems.
- Have your child practice multiplication and division within 100.
- Help your child understand the concepts of multiplication and division.
- Tell story problems involving more than one operation and have your child solve these problems.