



Math Weekly Tidbits

Maryland Common Core State Curriculum Framework
Maryland School for the Deaf

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Dear Teachers,

Hopefully by now, you have gotten used to seeing our faces everywhere in your building! We are really enjoying the opportunity to see wonderful teaching in action! We also cherish every moment we spend with your students! Thank you for being so warm and welcoming!

Some have asked about the purpose of us coming into your classroom to observe or help deliver lessons. This is to give us a better idea of who your students are, how they learn, and what they need. Once we have that information, we can see how the curriculum can be modified. We also want to give each teacher the opportunity to plan lessons using the new curriculum, well before this coming fall. That way, all teachers will be entering the new school year feeling more confident about using a very new curriculum.

Also, please remember that we are here to find resources for you if you need more information about anything related to mathematical instruction or the Maryland Common Core State Curriculum Frameworks.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Julie Tibbitt and Laura Riddell

Mathematics Curriculum Coordinators



Please see us if there is something specific you want to see in this newsletter!

Interesting Tidbit: Key Points in Mathematics

Excerpts from The Common Core State Standards Initiative website:

<http://www.corestandards.org/about-the-standards/key-points-in-mathematics>

- The K-5 standards provide students with a *solid foundation in whole numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions and decimals*—which help young students build the foundation to successfully apply more demanding math concepts and procedures, and move into applications.
- In kindergarten, the standards follow successful international models and recommendations from the National Research Council's Early Math Panel report, by focusing kindergarten work on the number core: learning how numbers correspond to quantities, and learning how to put numbers together and take them apart (the beginnings of addition and subtraction).

Note from us: If you look at what the current State Curriculum has to say about “counting”, you will find just ... that. The new curriculum will tell you, in much greater detail what type of counting and number recognition your kindergarteners should be doing. This is amazing!

- The K-5 standards build on the best state standards to provide detailed guidance to teachers on how to navigate their way through knotty topics such as *fractions, negative numbers, and geometry*, and do so by maintaining a continuous progression from grade to grade.
- The standards stress not only procedural skill but also conceptual understanding, to make sure students are learning and absorbing the critical information they need to succeed at higher levels - rather than the current practices by which many students learn enough to get by on the next test, but forget it shortly thereafter, only to review again the following year.

Note from us: This is why you will see fewer standards in the new curriculum—they really focus on “deeper understanding”. Hopefully, this will help resolve some concerns teachers have about pacing for their struggling learners.

Websites You MUST Bookmark!!

Illuminations: Web Links

<http://illuminations.nctm.org/Weblinks.aspx>

"Illuminations has links to 724 math resources on the web. Click on a Standard below to find the types of resources you're looking for. Selected Web Links are useful mathematics education resources on the Internet. Each resource has been approved by an editorial board. They can be used to improve the teaching of mathematics and can help you understand NCTM's Principles and Standards for School Mathematics."



Verizon Thinkfinity

<http://www.thinkfinity.org>

"Verizon Thinkfinity offers comprehensive teaching and learning resources created by our content partners – the most respected organizations in each academic subject and literacy. The easy-to-navigate K-12 resources are grade-specific and are aligned with state standards."



PARCC

<http://www.parcconline.org/classroom>

"PARCC's goal is to provide guidance and support that will help teachers bring the Common Core State Standards to life in their classrooms. To support educators in their efforts to provide their students with a first class education, PARCC is developing a number of tools and resources aligned to the CCSS and the PARCC assessments. Click here to see an overview of those resources. Eventually, these resources will be available on the Partnership Resource Center (PRC), a dynamic and interactive web-based library of all PARCC resources and materials. It is expected that the PRC will be available in Winter 2013."



**Partnership for Assessment of
Readiness for College and Careers**

MORE Websites You MUST Bookmark!!

Scholastic for Teachers

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/>

Book wizard, student activities, lesson plans, daily starters, everything you need, teachers-to-teachers blogs, teacher store online, and printables. Scholastic has a lot of new (and free) features.

Scholastic Elmers Glue Crew

<http://www.scholastic.com/elmersgluecrew/>

“When hands-on learning meets technology in the classroom, something magical happens. Students who are engaged in hands-on activities learn not only the curricula and the concepts involved in a project, but also how to organize and present their thoughts, how to manage a complex project in a limited amount of time, and how to collaborate with members of a group. Add technology into the mix, and the experience is sure to be memorable. On this site you'll find new, whiteboard-ready lesson plans with ties to STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education, perfect for grade levels K–6. Enjoy!”

Scholastic Math and Science Lesson Activities

<http://www.scholastic.com/browse/collection.jsp?id=190>

“Classroom technology just got smarter with Notebook collaborative learning software. Teachers can easily design dynamic lesson activities using Notebook software and deliver those lessons on their SMART Board interactive whiteboards. Notebook software has a work area, easy-to-use tools, and content.

The lessons provided on this site will give you a taste of the many exciting things you can do in Notebook software. You can see just how easy it is to create and deliver lessons that are interesting and interactive while reinforcing learning objectives.”



Real-Life Application: Measuring Snow

Yes, this winter has been largely a “bust” for snow-lovers. There is some chatter about a possible snowstorm this weekend. In anticipation of that, the Capital Weather Gang has released a very interesting blog on “accurately” measuring snow. Apparently, this is a very intense subject among meteorologists. We have automated equipment at airport and over 15,000 volunteers nation-wide, and even this is not precise enough. The National Center for Atmospheric Research and NASA are pursuing separate projects involving amazing (what else?) technology.

Read more at this link: http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/capital-weather-gang/post/accurately-measuring-snow-a-critical-winter-weather-challenge/2012/02/17/gIQA0C6IJR_blog.html#pagebreak

YOUR TURN!

How would you be able to use this news article to discuss the importance of precision (one of our 8 Standards for Mathematical Practice!) with your students?



Taken by Kevin Ambrose, Capital Weather Gang