

Common Core Standards

The State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards at their July 8th meeting. The Common Core Standards, in literacy and math, were created by the National Governor's Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). These standards define the knowledge and skills that students should have so they can graduate from high school. They will then be able to succeed in entry level, credit bearing academic college courses and in workforce training programs. The standards are developed to be clear, rigorous, and to build on the strengths of the current state standards so that all students will be able to succeed in the global society.

During the summer of 2011, many of our WRSD teachers, in grades K – 12, worked to develop our common core standards in literacy and math. Once that was done, they developed units of instruction based on the common core standards which are called pacing guides. In the pacing guides, there are certain areas that are going to be developed as the school year progresses. Some of these areas are: standards, objectives, instructional resources, instructional strategies, common assessments, and interventions and extensions. Each grade level has pacing guides for each of their units of instruction. As this is the first year, while we are developing the pacing guides, teachers are discussing what is working best with the students learning the standards. This information will then be put in one of the areas listed above so we can share this information with all the teachers. The pacing guides have teachers discussing curriculum, students, and learning at all of their team meetings. We are excited about developing pacing guides.

News from Kindergarten Plus

Can you believe it is already October?

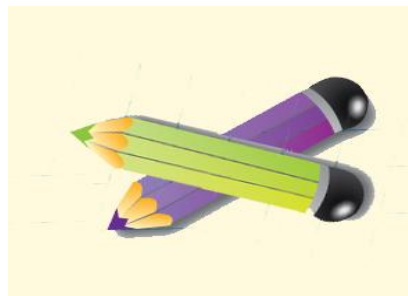
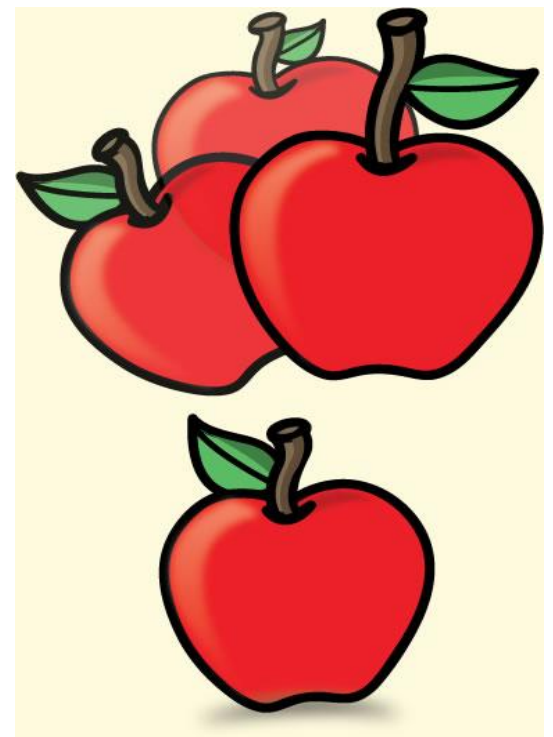
We have been very busy in Kindergarten Plus (K+) developing a positive learning community. We have been introduced to all sorts of tools and manipulative through Interactive Modeling! On Fridays, we get to explore our newly introduced high frequency words and letters through academic choice.

In math, we are working on number recognition and one-to-one correspondence. The entire kindergarten had the opportunity to go on an apple picking trip! As a class, we have remade our own version of "Ten Apples Up On Top". Thursdays have been a very exciting day for us. We get to go to

computers and work to extend our learning with technology.

At the end of the month, we will base our learning around fall. We will continue our learning through apples, pumpkins, and leaves, oh my!

Stay tuned in November to hear all about the centers we will begin to explore!



- Links to WRSD Curriculum Information
- NWEA Testing at WRSD
- Grade 5 Title I News
- Mrs. Smith's Title I News

---WRSD Curriculum Standards

<http://www.wrsdsau59.org/departments.html>

---WRSD Curriculum Audit done in Spring 2011

<http://www.wrsdsau59.org/departments.html>

NWEA Testing at WRSD

(Northwest Evaluation Association)



When you receive your parent report of the NWEA data, please read it carefully. The "Student Score Range" tells you that your child's RIT score is within a band with his/her score in the middle. (For example: 195 – **198** – 201) Next is the "District Average RIT". That means for all the students in your child's grade level this is the average RIT score. The "Norm Group Average" means that every student, taking the test nationally, this is the average score. Next is the percentiles which range from 0 to 100 with 50% in the middle. We hope this helps you 😊

Title I News from Grade 5

5th grade is very busy with NECAP (New England Common Assessment Program) our students are working very hard. The testing will continue for two (2) more weeks.

In reading, we finished our first trade book of the year. We read **Stone Fox**. The students enjoyed reading this book as a group. They did some fun activities that were connected to the skill of comprehension. I will be sending home vocabulary words that will connect with our Storytown curriculum. I will attach a set of "I have who has" cards so the children can practice their vocabulary words with you at home.

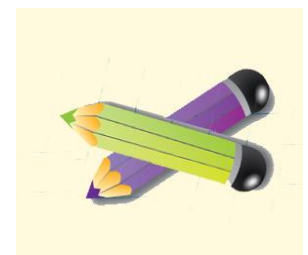
In math, we finished unit 1, which included lessons covering place value and scientific notation. Today, we begin multiplication in our unit 2. We will use Cuisenaire rods to model this. Cuisenaire rods are an excellent tool; they give a visual representation of the skill.

Thank you for your continued support in your child's academic progress.

Mrs. Debra Smith, Title I Reading Tutor at the Middle School - NEWS

Middle school has completed Open House, and it was a pleasure meeting the families that attended this year. During Open House, many families may have signed up for parent conferences. Our team encourages families to do so if you have not this gives you the opportunities to communicate one on one with your child's teacher.

E/LA classes have been working on a unit titled Tolerance and Diversity. We have read many short stories and poems, which have encouraged many conversations on how our culture deals with tolerance and diversity and what it actually is. With this unit, I hope that your sixth grade students have been able to understand people are different in many ways and families have different traditions in each different culture. We also work on reading comprehension, main ideas and sequencing of stories this unit. **Continued on page 4**



- Title I News from Mrs. Martinson

Title I News from Mrs. Martinson

The month of October has been very busy for the 6th grade math students.

During late September and early October, students practiced multi-digit whole number multiplication and division and then learned to multiply and divide decimals. On the 6th, all of our classes had a quiz on decimals. In each class, we have students that did very well and others that need a bit more practice. One common error was incorrect multiplication facts. Students understood how to treat the decimals but calculated an incorrect answer. Students that do not know their multiplication facts should continue to study a few facts everyday until they are fluent.

This year, in each unit, students will be expected to solve word problems relating to the skills being learned. So far this year solving these problems appears to be a challenge for a lot of our students. Teachers will continue to ask students to apply their math skills in real life situations through the use of word problems. Students need to practice recognizing the important facts and the question being asked in the written passage.



Students then must determine how to use the facts to calculate the answer. We are using a system of circling the facts and underlining the question. It can be fun creating word problems! If you have a chance, try writing a few word problems at home for your child to practice the basic operations (add, subtract, multiply & divide). Practicing the skill of identifying the facts and questions of word problems using the basic skills students understand will help them identify those same “pieces” in higher level problems. It is also NECAP testing time this month. Sixth graders will be tested on Thursday the 13th, Friday the 14th and Monday the 17th. We are trying something new this year to help students perform at their best level. There will not be any classes on those three days! Students will have breaks between tests to go to recess and UA classes and whereas we are not having classes there will not be any homework. Please help your child get plenty of rest by going to bed on time (I like 8:30pm or earlier – you know your child’s sleeping habits best) and eating a good breakfast. Remember we do have a breakfast program offered in the cafeteria before school.

After the NECAP testing period math classes will begin studying greatest common factors and least common multiples. Again, multiplication fact fluency is key to success in this unit.

On November 15 and 16 we are having parent / teacher conferences here at the Middle School. If you have already signed up for a conference, a reminder will be sent home soon.

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- News from USS

- Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow. **Anthony J. D'Angelo**
- Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself. **John Dewey**

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If you are not signed up and would like to reserve a time to meet with your child's teachers, please contact Susan Hewey, the 6th grade team leader.

If you have any questions please contact any of the math staff Deb Martinson, Title 1 Math Tutor, Mr. Meyer or Mrs. Beliveau at 286-7143.



Continued from page 2 (Smith)

I have enjoyed getting to know your children. What a great jump start to the year. Don't forget Title I staff offers a homework club where students can get homework completed and extra tutoring as well. Enjoy your autumn.

Title I News from Grade 4

The month of October is very busy for the 4th graders with NECAP testing. Everyone is working very hard to do their best. While not in testing, the students completed their unit on Place Value in math. We are starting our unit on multiplication. Students will soon be bringing math facts home to practice each night. We are learning how to use our Cuisinaire rods to give us visuals in math. We are also starting science in the afternoon. Some of the classes are learning about the skeleton and others are learning about rocks and minerals. Everyone is doing well with their book bags, keep up the great job!!!

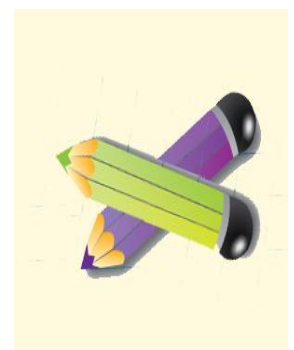
Title I News from USS

In first grade, we begin with the theme of *One For All*. The first story the students will be reading is Get Up, Rick! This story is about a rooster and how his friends help him fix a problem he is having with his alarm clock. We will also be working on the digraph, ck, the short vowel sound, o and the variant vowel /o/a (all). First grade will also be learning about the characters in a story and how a story is broken down; into a beginning, middle and end.

Second Grade is Continued Below

Second Grade Continued

In second grade, we will be continuing with the theme *Count On Me*. The stories in this theme are about friendship and caring for another person. One story we read is called Dogs. This story focuses on the important details of dogs and how to care for them. We will be studying long vowels spelled *ee* and *ea* and will be focusing on the skill of identifying the main idea and details in a story. Please read nightly with your child and practice the sight words that are sent home. The more practice your child has, the better reader s/he will become. Happy October!



Title I News from Mr. James Frase-White

Our students are grounded on earth by the NECAP (New England Common Assessment Program), but in Science they are out of this world, studying our Solar System. The first week of testing is centered on Reading. The second week is Math. The third week is for make-ups, and then return to a normal schedule.

Title 1 will proctor the assessment, helping maintain a quiet, conducive environment for our Title 1 students. I will continue assisting with Homework Help in the morning, and in class, with Rocket Math, and with their work on the planets.

During week three we will be returning to our Storytown Reading, starting Theme 2, *Together We Can*, which centers on stories about working together, and communicating clearly. Our first story is historical fiction, based on a Babe Ruth, coupled with a non-fiction history of our National Sport. Our spelling is all compound words, which we will be studying through the next five weeks. We will also build our vocabulary of synonyms and antonyms, and study fact and opinion. The stories in this unit are filled with topics that should intrigue your child: dogs, policemen, animals, folk tales and a concluding mystery reader's theater, featuring the three bears.

In math, we will be doing an intensive study of addition. We will begin with simple addition, without regrouping, just like their rocket math. Then the addition problems will

Continued from above

progress to 2 digits, then 3 and 4 digits with regrouping. There will be lots of math games interspersed along with emphasizing basic addition facts. It will be a lot of hard work, but also a lot of fun games. Look forward to a Title 1 bonus sheet to come home once a week, that will help them build their skills and earn points towards prizes. It looks like an exciting fall at Southwick School!

Upcoming Parent and Student Nights

Tentative - November 17th – Math night with dinner MORE TO COME

February 16th – reading at USS, with dinner

Tentative - April 12th – USS at Memorial Town Library with an ice cream sundae after the program

