



Common Core State Standards Implementation

In 2010 the state of California adopted the National Common Core Standards. The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The standards were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and experts, to provide a clear and consistent framework to prepare our children for college and the workforce.

The overall goal of the Common Core Standards is rich and deep concept development across our curriculum. The Common Core Standards merely organizes what Mill Valley's strengths are into a systemic standards system. Mill Valley School District's teaching methodology of inquiry-based learning is a great match for Common Core Implementation.

Why Common Core Standards?

- Rewritten with the goal of making students college and career ready
- Application of higher order thinking skills
- Articulates a trajectory of skill development K-12
- Ensure all students are prepared for all entry-level, credit-bearing, academic college courses
- Consistent expectations for all – not dependent on a zip code
- Internationally benchmarked

Common Core Frequently Asked Questions

New Comprehensive Assessment System:

- Assessments are **common across states** and aligned to the Common Core State Standards
- Students take “**performance-based**” assessments for accountability
- Assessment systems are “**computer-based**” for more sophisticated design and **quick reliable scoring**
- Designed to **replace individual state tests** in ELA and Math in the year 2014-2015

Proposed Assessments:

- Grades 3-8 and 11
- Administered in the last 12 weeks of school
- Computer Adaptive Tests

- Performance Tasks
- Accountability starts in the 2014-2015 year

Smarter Balanced Assessments

Areas of Emphasis in English Language Arts:

- **Focus on Text Complexity** – equal emphasis on the sophistication of what students read and the skill of how they read.
- **Emphasis on Reading and Writing Across the Curriculum**
- **Emphasis on Informational Text** – in all grades there are an equal number of standards for Literature and Informational Text. Standards for history/social studies/science in grades 6-12 allows for an increased percentage of informational text.
- **Emphasis on Collaborative Conversations** – speaking and listening standards call for students to engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions
- **Emphasis on Writing Arguments and Drawing Evidence from Sources** – writing to persuade and explain; less emphasis is placed on narrative writing
- **Emphasis on Integrating Media Sources** – research and media skills are incorporated in all strands of the CCCSS rather than being called out as a separate strand.

Math Emphasis

8 Mathematical Practices:

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them

- Start by explaining to themselves the meaning of a problem and looking for entry points to its solution

2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively

- Create coherent representations of problems

3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others

- Understand and use information to construct arguments, justify conclusions and respond to arguments of others

4. Model with mathematics

- Can copy the mathematics they know to solve problems arising in everyday life, society, and the workplace

5. Use appropriate tools strategically

- Consider the available tools when solving a mathematical problem (tools appropriate to grade level: concrete models, ruler, protractor, calculator, spreadsheet, computer programs, digital content on websites, etc...)

6. Attend to precision

- Calculate accurately and efficiently - communicate precisely to others

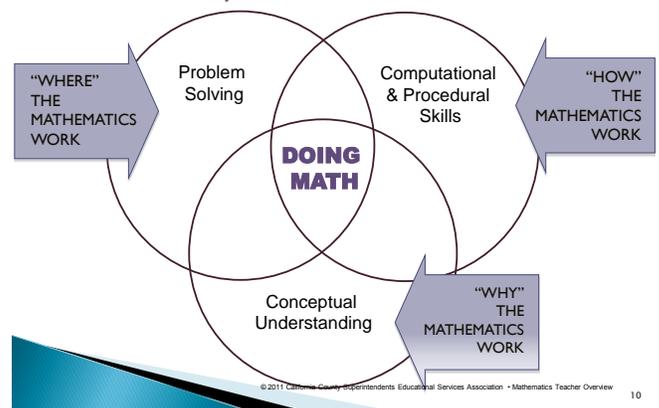
7. Look for and make use of structure

- Look closely and discern a pattern or structure, can step back and shift perspective

8. Look for and express regularity and repeated reasoning

- Notice if calculations are repeated, and look for both general methods and for shortcuts

Mathematical Proficiency as defined by the California Framework



Current Work in Mill Valley:

- Implement a **balanced math program** that will support the mathematical practices
- Gather resources and **build our knowledge base**
- **Building capacity** through teacher training
- Nurture teaching practices that **support authentic, real world learning**
- **Provide opportunities for teachers to collaborate** in building units across the district and with our partner school districts Kentfield and Reed
- Job-embedded Professional Development
- Continue to use **quality formative and summative assessments** to inform and drive instruction
- Provide information and **Parent Education Nights** around Common Core Standards

More Information

Please visit

<http://www.mvschools.org/commoncore>