



October 2013

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Lisbon Central School
6866 County Route 10
Lisbon, NY 13658

Knightly News

From the Superintendent

Last year, following the tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut, the district safety committee met to review our policy and outline reinforced visitor protocols. Since the location of the elementary office changed over the summer, some details of the procedures changed. To review, any parents who bring their UPK through 4th grade students into the building in the morning are asked to please drop your children off and leave the elementary wing by 8:25. Parents who pick up these same grade level students at the end of the day are required to sign out their children in the high school office and wait in the hallway outside of the offices. All 5th through 12th grade students should be dropped off at one of the student entrances, which are the three main doors at the front of the building and the new entrance between the cafeteria and the gym. Parents of students in these grades do not need to enter the building. Throughout the day, all visitors will need to use the Bell-Tower entrance and report to the 5-12 office. Large assemblies and concerts will not require visitor sign-in; however we will still ask all to come through the 5-12 office.

Our teaching staff continues to work to align their curriculum to meet the new Common Core standards. To help you understand these new standards, I have included a publication provided by NYS PTA and NYSUT entitled *A Parent's Guide to Common Core Learning*. I encourage you to talk with your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns about your child's schoolwork.



The October calendar is filling up fast. Fire Prevention Week is October 6-12. Our UPK-2nd grade students will visit the fire station on October 9th and students in grades 3-6 will be meeting with fire fighters in their classrooms on that day. Also, the first FROGS Assembly will be held on October 10th at 2:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. Staff Development Day is October 11th. There is no school for students that day. School will be closed on October 14th in observance of Columbus Day.

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on October 24th and October 25th. Students in grades JK-5th grade will be dismissed at noon. Teachers will schedule conferences in their classrooms. Students in grades 6-12 will have full days on both days. Conferences for these grades will be held in the gym on Thursday, October 24th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

The annual Halloween Parade will be held on Thursday, October 31st in the large gym for students in grades UPK-6. I look forward to seeing you at this fun event!

I hope you are able to enjoy these beautiful fall days with your children! Winter is just around the corner!

Sincerely yours,
Erin E. Woods
Elementary Principal/Superintendent

Guidance Office News

Mrs. Putman

The fall is a busy time in the guidance office, with schedule changes, new student registrations, and seniors beginning the college application process. Be sure to mark your calendars with the dates that apply to your child.

On the calendar, we have important test dates, registration deadlines, and upcoming programs, along with scheduled visits from some college admissions representatives. Juniors and seniors are encouraged to come to the guidance office to speak with the representatives of schools of interest to them. Students may stop in the guidance office to pick up a presigned pass to visit with a college representative.

Guidance Calendar

October 1
9:30 a.m.

College Day at Richard Lockwood
Arena, O'Burg

1:00 p.m.
Johnson State College (VT) admissions
rep. visit

6-8 p.m. College Night at SLU
Fieldhouse

October 3
Deadline to register for the Nov. 2 SAT

October 7
11:30 a.m.
US Army recruiter visit

October 8
9:15 a.m.
College of St. Rose admissions rep. visit

October 10
1:00 p.m.
Utica College admissions rep. visit

October 15
1:00 p.m.
Paul Smiths College admissions rep.
visit

October 16
8:30 a.m.
PSAT/NMSQT test for juniors and
sophomores

October 23
11:00 a.m.
SUNY Potsdam admissions rep. visit

October 25
1:30 p.m.
Clarkson University admissions rep.
visit

October 26
7:30 a.m.
ACT offered at OFA

October 30
2:00 p.m.
LeMoyne College admissions rep. visit

November 2
7:30 a.m.
SAT offered at OFA or Canton HS

November 8
Deadline to register for Dec. 7 SAT

Deadline to register for the Dec. 14
ACT
November 25
8:30 a.m.
ASVAB for juniors in LCS Auditorium

December 7
7:30 a.m.
SAT offered at Potsdam HS

December 14
7:30 a.m.
ACT offered at OFA or Canton HS

Mark your calendars!

Tuesday, October 1 is College Information Day/Night. There will be nearly 100 colleges represented in the OFA Golden Dome in Ogdensburg from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Juniors (and interested seniors, space permitting) who sign up in the guidance office will be bussed to

Ogdensburg to meet with college and military representatives.

An evening session with the college representatives will be held at the St. Lawrence University Fieldhouse from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

In past years, at 5:15 p.m. in the Augsburg Classroom (inside the Augsburg Fieldhouse), select colleges have hosted "Preparing to Apply for Selective Colleges." Panelists have included St. Lawrence University, Cornell University, Hamilton College, and Skidmore College. The program is geared for 9-11 grade students, but seniors are also welcome to come and learn about choices students can make throughout high school that will help them in the competitive college admissions process. If you are possibly interested in a selective college, please consider attending.

Parents are encouraged to attend either the day or evening session with their children!

Standardized Tests

On October 16, 2013, the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) will be administered at Lisbon Central School to interested juniors and sophomores. The PSAT/NMSQT measures critical reading, math problem-solving, and writing skills. The test is normally taken by juniors as a good practice tool and score prediction tool for students planning to take the SAT as a college entrance exam later in junior year. Students interested in taking the test on October 16 must sign up with Mrs. Barney in the Guidance Office by Friday, October 11. The fee for the test is \$14.00 per student; fee waivers are available for students who fall into specific income eligibility categories (i.e. free/reduced lunch students). The fee to take the test must be paid or a fee waiver must be requested in the Guidance Office by Tuesday, October 15, 2013.

Most four-year colleges require the results of the SAT or ACT standardized tests for admission decisions. The tests are sometimes required to compete for particular scholarships as well. The tests are generally taken by juniors in the spring of the junior year or seniors in the fall of the senior year. Both tests can be taken multiple times if a student wishes. The SAT and ACT are given several times per year at OFA or Canton HS on Saturdays. Students must register several weeks in advance.

There are a few options for juniors to prepare for the SAT in particular. We will be offering an after school SAT prep class from Hammond Central School over the Distance Learning system in the spring. The program will run on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00-4:00 p.m. from early February through early May. Interested students may see Mrs. Putman to sign up. Additionally, there is an SAT prep course offered at Canton HS on Sundays for 8 weeks from late February through late April for three hours per Sunday. This course has been offered in the past at a cost of approximately \$170.00 per student.

If you would like further information about the PSAT/NMSQT, the SAT, or other services offered by the College Board, please refer to the website:

www.collegeboard.com

If you need further information about the ACT, please refer to the website:

www.act.org

ASVAB

The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) has been scheduled. It will be offered to juniors in the morning of Monday, November 25, 2013 in the Lisbon Central School auditorium. The ASVAB is a great career/college planning tool, as the test allows students to assess their strengths and weaknesses and plan majors/interests accordingly.

The countdown to college begins!

Seniors may begin filing college applications immediately. Generally, college applications should be turned in to Mrs. Putman by November or December to allow time to process the paperwork, including transcripts and recommendations. Students requiring letters of recommendation need to request those letters from teachers, coaches, advisors, family friends, religious leaders, employers, etc. early – do not rush them!

Many colleges are encouraging online applications – in fact, some colleges will waive the application fee for students applying online, rather than on paper applications. Check the websites of your colleges of interest before completing applications.

The State University of New York (SUNY) applications are available online at:

www.suny.edu/student

Students are encouraged to use the web to apply to NYS public colleges or stop in the Guidance Office to pick up a copy of the SUNY application. Students may apply to multiple SUNY colleges on the same application at a cost of \$50.00 per college.

We also have applications to some private colleges or out-of-state colleges in the guidance office. Most applications can also be downloaded from college websites or applications can be done online.

Just let me explain...

EARLY DECISION applications are submitted by seniors who wish to be accepted by a particular college earlier than the usual acceptance notification date. Applying early decision means that if a student is accepted, he/she must withdraw all other applications at other colleges. Thus, the student must be sure that this is the one college he/she wishes to attend and must understand that a promise is being made that if he/she is accepted and awarded adequate

financial aid, he/she will attend the college. Early decision applications are generally due in early November, and thus, should be turned in to Mrs. Putman in October for completion.

EARLY ACCEPTANCE is a program offered by some colleges to allow students to know of their acceptance earlier in the senior year. There is no promise to attend that college, but the application is due earlier and reviewed by the college earlier so that a decision is given to the student earlier. This simply allows students to know about their acceptance earlier than the common March and April notification dates.

Financial aid, already??

I have already had a number of students ask about financial aid this fall. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will not be available for seniors until December and must be completed after January 1, 2014 based on the 2013 tax year information. Scholarship applications will begin arriving in the Guidance Office in the next few weeks, and we plan to disseminate information using student mailboxes as we did last year. Each senior has a labeled mailbox in the guidance office in which copies of scholarship applications are placed as they arrive. Students need only to come in and periodically check their mailbox to pick up new applications. However, keep up with them and don't let the deadlines pass you by!

We will be scheduling a Financial Aid meeting with local college financial aid counselors sometime in late November or early December. We will have more information as details are arranged.





Lisbon's Athletic Department is now in coordination with <http://www.mylocker.net/new-york/lisbon/lisbon-central-school/index.html> which will allow members of the Lisbon community to purchase Lisbon apparel. Your purchases will show your support for Lisbon Central School and a portion of each payment goes to the Lisbon Athletic Department.

Also, when you make a purchase of \$100.00 or more MyLocker.Net offers a free customizable T-shirt. You can purchase merchandise from the MyLocker.Net website by clicking on the link above or by going to www.Shop.MyLocker.Net and entering our locker number: **bn624**



Board of Education Meeting Summary

The Board of Education met on September 12, 2013, following a reception welcoming new faculty and staff members. A summary of the meeting is as follows:

- Acceptance of a letter of resignation from Taylor Jordan as Teaching Assistant
- Acceptance of a letter of resignation from Victoria Tarbox as Food Service Helper
- Acceptance of a letter of resignation from Jessica Jarrett as .625 Spanish Teacher and .325 Teaching Assistant
- Appointment of Toni Epprecht as .625 Spanish Teacher
- Appointment of Brooke Putney as Teaching Assistant
- Appointment of Katelyn Driscoll as Teaching Assistant

- Approval of the Treasurer's Report for August
- Approval of the Cash Disbursements for August
- Review of the Budget Expenditures
- Review of the Revenue Summary
- Approval of the Budget Transfers for August

Discussion Items Included:

- Annual Maintenance Plan

Administrator's Reports:

- Building and Grounds Report
- Athletic Report

The next meeting of the Lisbon Central School Board of Education will be held on Thursday, October 10, 2013 in the Board Room.



Chicken and Biscuit Dinner

The Lisbon Girls' Basketball Team is holding a Chicken and Biscuit Dinner on **Saturday, October 5, 2013 from 4:00 p.m. – 700 p.m.** at the Moose Lodge, 609 Pickering Street, Ogdensburg.

Cost of the dinner is \$8
Takeout is available.

For questions or additional information,
contact Dicky Marcellus at 323-389.

October 2013 Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <i>College Information Day/Night</i>	2	3 <i>OCP Show Grades 3-4</i>	4	5
6	7	8	9 <i>Fire Safety Day</i> <i>OCP Show Grades JK-2</i>	10 <i>FROGS/PBIS 2:00 pm</i> <i>Board of Education Meeting (7:00 pm)</i>	11 <i>Staff Development Day</i> <i>No School for Students</i>	12
13	14 <i>Columbus Day</i> <i>No School</i>	15	16 <i>PSAT</i>	17 <i>Music Technology Assembly – Grades 9-12</i>	18 <i>1st Marking Period Ends</i>	19
20	21 BOOK	21 FAIR	23 	24 <i>Parent Teacher Conferences/Report Cards</i> <i>JK-5 dismissed at 12:00 noon</i>	25 <i>Parent Teacher Conferences/Report Cards</i> <i>JK-5 dismissed at 12:00 noon</i>	26 <i>Volleyball Tournament 7 am-9 pm</i> <i>Trunk or Treat 130-4:00 pm</i>
27	28	29	30	31 <i>Halloween Parade 1:00 pm</i> 		

For up-to-date schedules for all levels of fall sports, please visit <http://sectionxsportspak.sllboces.org>

October 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
BREAKFAST	Breakfast pizza with sausage & egg	Ham, egg, & cheese on a muffin	French toast w/ sausage	Apple strudel stick	Bagel pizza	
		1 Day 1 Pulled pork w/ tater tots & pickled beets	2 Day 2 General Tso chicken w/ rice & oriental veggies	3 Day 3 Baked goulash w/ green beans	4 Day 4 Cheese sticks w/ spinach salad	5
6	7 Day 5 Ham & cheese croissant w/ tomato soup & angry pintos	8 Day 6 Sloppy Joe w/ home fries	9 Day 1 Chicken tenders w/ whipped sweet potatoes and cucumber slices	10 Day 2 Turkey & cheese quesadilla w/ roasted zucchini	11 Staff Day	12
13	14 Columbus Day	15 Day 3 Cheese burger w/ fries	16 Day 4 Chicken nuggets w/ rice pilaf & carrot sticks	17 Day 5 Upside Down Day: French toast sticks w/ hash brown & sausage	18 Day 6 Pizza Logs w/ new Italian bread salad	19
20	21 Day 1 Chicken fajita wrap w/ celery sticks and humus w/ tahini	22 Day 2 Fish burger w/ French fries	23 Day 3 Hot Turkey over mash potato or rice, butternut squash & bread w/ butter	24 Day 4 Sheppard's pie w/ corn and dinner roll	25 Day 5 Stuff crust pizza w/ broccoli salad	26
27	28 Day 6 Tacos' w/ lettuce, tomato, & cheese; Refried beans and corn	29 Day 1 Build your own sub w/ potato salad	30 Day 2 Popcorn chicken w/ sweet potato fries	31 Day 3 Hot Ham over mash potato or rice, cauliflower and bread w/ butter		

Alternate Lunch Menu UPK—5: Monday – Pizza; Turkey or Ham Subs; PBJ; or Chef Salad

Wednesday—Chicken Caesar or Chef salad; 1/2 PBJ w/ Fruited Yogurt; or Lisbon Lunchable

Tuesday/Thursday – Chicken Burger; Turkey or Ham Sub; PBJ; or Chef Salad

Friday only: Grilled cheese

Alternate Lunch Menu 6—12: Monday/Wednesday—Pizza; Turkey or Ham Sub; PBJ; or Chef Salad

Tuesday/Thursday—Chicken burger ; Turkey or Ham Sub; PBJ; or Chef Salads

Friday only: Grilled cheese

Breakfast Choices Daily – Assorted Cold Cereal; Hot Oatmeal; Bagel w/ cream cheese

English Muffin w/Peanut Butter; Yogurt Parfait's ;Pop tarts or Fruit Smoothies

Assorted juices; fresh fruit; fruit cup; fat free flavored milk; and fat free or 1% white milk offered Daily

Our new Lisbon Lunchable: 1 oz. mozzarella sticks, 1 oz. Pepperoni, 1/2 Cup apple sauce and pretzels

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3

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4

Homeroom: ID#: Grade:

Enter Your Package Price		
Icon(s) ea.	\$3.00 x QTY	
Autograph Section	\$2.30	
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Clear Protective Cover	\$2.35	
Donate a Yearbook	\$15.00	
Handling Fee	N/A	N/A
SUBTOTAL		
Tax	7.00%	
TOTAL		



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Enter 4 digit icon code from chart on the right into boxes provided above.

ICON 1

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ICON 2

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ICON 3

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ICON 4

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4

ENTER YOUR INFORMATION

Student Name: _____

Student Email: _____

Student Phone: _____

Homeroom: _____ ID#: _____ Grade: _____

OR ORDER ONLINE AT
jostensyearbooks.com

TOTAL YOUR ORDER

Enter Your Package Price		
Icon(s) ea.	\$3.00 x QTY	
Autograph Section	\$2.30	
Photo Pockets	\$2.10	
Clear Protective Cover	\$2.35	
Handling Fee	N/A	N/A
SUBTOTAL		
Tax	7.00%	
TOTAL		



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As a fundraiser, the LCS Yearbook
is accepting donations of these used items to recycle:

CELL PHONES
INKJET CARTRIDGES
DIGITAL CAMERAS
GPS DEVICES
LASER CARTRIDGES
LAPTOPS
IPODS
VIDEO GAMES & CONSOLES
PDAs
DVDs



Collecting spots are in the High School & Elementary Offices.

THANK YOU!!!

Please join us in the large gym on Thursday, October 31st
at 1:00 p.m. for the annual Halloween Parade. Students
will dress in their costumes in the classroom.
Remember, no makeup or weapons of any kind are allowed.
We hope to see you there.

TRUNK OR TREAT

An Outreach of Lisbon Wesleyan Church

Saturday, October 26th

2 pm

Lisbon Central School Parking Lot

In case of rain, it will be moved to the school cafeteria.



**Treats and surprises for all
kids 4th grade and younger.
Face painting, activities and more
Free hotdogs for everyone!**

**Costumes Optional
(No blood, guts, gore, or 'bad guys' please)
Call 393-1079 for more information**

www.LisbonWC.org





October 2013

Dear Lisbon Families,

The Lisbon Student Government, National Honor Society and Interact Organizations are striving to make Christmas a bit brighter for the students in our district and their families this year. We realize how difficult the holiday season can be on a family's budget. These two groups provide food baskets for the family and gifts for the children.

If your family would appreciate our assistance this year, please fill out the attached sheet and place it in a sealed envelope and return it to Patti Barney by **Friday, October 25, 2013**. The school address is 6866 County Route 10, Lisbon, NY 13658. Participation in this project is strictly confidential. You will be receiving more information regarding pick-up dates in the future.

Please keep **October 25th** in mind as the deadline for returning information so that we have the time needed to process requests.

Sincerely,

Becky Akins
Patti Barney
Lynda Hooper
Rachel Livingston

Parents/Guardians: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please list all children in your household ages 18 and under

Name: _____ M/F Age _____ Teacher: _____

Shirt Size _____ Pant Size _____ Shoe Size _____

Special Needs/Requests:

Name: _____ M/F Age _____ Teacher: _____

Shirt Size _____ Pant Size _____ Shoe Size _____

Special Needs/Requests:

Name: _____ M/F Age _____ Teacher: _____

Shirt Size _____ Pant Size _____ Shoe Size _____

Special Needs/Requests:

Name: _____ M/F Age _____ Teacher: _____

Shirt Size _____ Pant Size _____ Shoe Size _____

Special Needs/Requests:

Name: _____ M/F Age _____ Teacher: _____

Shirt Size _____ Pant Size _____ Shoe Size _____

Special Needs/Requests:

Open Farm Sunday

Sunday, October 13th
Akins' Farm
227 Five Mile Line Road, Lisbon
10 am – 2 pm

Lunch items will be cooked and served by Lisbon Interact members. All proceeds from lunch will be donated to the local food pantries at the Ogdensburg Harvest Walk.

Open Farm Sunday is sponsored by: Agri-Mark, Cabot Cheese and Poulin Grain





School Name Lisbon Central School

School Code

1	6	9	5	9
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Dear Parents and Supporters

Important Announcement!

For many years, the Tools for Schools program has helped shoppers like you support the school of their choice just by shopping with their AdvantEdge card.

You may enroll your card to support our school for the 2013-2014 school year starting *now*. Enrolling is simple and takes just minutes. Go to www.pricechopper.com to check your enrollment and sign up. You may find the link for Tools for Schools under the "Savings" tab then Click on "School Savings Program" and the Tools for Schools logo will appear.

Please note: If you registered your card last year, you do NOT need to re-enroll.

We want to thank all of you who have supported our school through "Tools for Schools" and encourage anyone who is new to the program to join today by registering your AdvantEdge card to our school code.

Sincerely,
Your Price Chopper Tools for Schools Coordinator

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO

COMMON CORE LEARNING

New York State
PTA[®]
everychild.one voice.

nysut
A Union of Professionals



Dear Parents,

Until now, each state has had its own set of student learning standards. Instruction has varied greatly from district to district, and even from school to school. That's why New York State PTA and NYSUT support the concept of Common Core Standards: The goal is to provide a clear, consistent "core" of standards so all children have access to an excellent education, regardless of ZIP code.

New York is one of many states across the nation that have voluntarily adopted the new Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts/Literacy and Math.

Of course, standards alone don't advance student learning. Educators must be given the resources, tools and time to adjust their practice. Parents need to know about upcoming changes in what their children will be expected to know and do. And students must be provided with appropriate instruction, learning materials and assessments to measure their progress.

Our organizations, from their very beginnings, have shared a steadfast commitment to improving the education of all students. This Parent's Guide is a natural extension of that commitment — and was developed to assist parents with understanding the new Common Core curriculum movement and the need to work together to ensure our students' success.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lana Ajemian".

Lana Ajemian, President
New York State PTA®



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard C. Iannuzzi".

Richard Iannuzzi, President
New York State United Teachers

COMMON CORE



What are the Common Core State Standards?

The Common Core State Standards initiative is a state-led effort coordinated by the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association. The goal of the CCSS is to provide a single set of clear and consistent educational standards in math and English language arts that states can share and voluntarily adopt. A total of 45 states, the District of Columbia, four territories, and the Department of Defense Education Activity have adopted the Common Core State Standards.



Why do we need new standards?

Until now, every state had its own standards and different expectations of student performance. Common standards will help ensure that all students are receiving a high quality education consistently, from school to school and state to state. Common Core standards can provide parents with clear expectations for what children should know and be able to do

when they graduate high school or advance to a particular grade level. Common Core standards provide consistency for parents and students during transitions and allow parents to continue to support student learning regardless of changes in ZIP code. In addition, evidence-based standards will more effectively prepare American students to keep up with their peers around the world.



What does Common Core look like in the classroom?

Common Core standards are a clear set of shared goals and expectations for what students need to learn, but they will not dictate how teachers should teach. Common Core standards are not curriculum. Teachers and schools will continue to devise curriculum, including lesson plans and tailor instruction to the individual needs of the students in their classrooms. Local teachers, principals, superintendents and school boards will continue to make curriculum decisions.



Were teachers and parents involved in the creation of the standards?

Yes. Parents and teachers have been a critical voice in the development of the standards. The National PTA, National Education Association, American Federation of Teachers, National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, National Council of Teachers of English and other organizations have been instrumental in bringing

together teachers to provide specific, constructive feedback since the standards were first released in 2010.

WHY NOW?

- Different standards across states
- Student mobility, military families
- Global competition
- Today's jobs require different skills

THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS:

- Prepare students with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in college and work
- Provide educators, parents and students with clear, focused standards or guideposts
- Set consistent expectations, regardless of a student's ZIP code
- Include both knowledge and the application of subject area
- Build upon strengths and lessons of current state standards and standards of top-performing nations
- Are based on real-world application
- Are evidence- and research-based, with guidance on topics to include, when to introduce content, and coherence/focus



What's happening here in New York?

New York's Board of Regents adopted the P-12 Common Core Learning Standards in ELA/Literacy and Mathematics in January 2011. The standards focus on a deeper level of subject comprehension and set clear expectations for learning. New York teachers were involved in the review process and recommended the state approve additional standards.



Did New York add anything?

Yes, in 2011, the Board of Regents approved recommended additions to the Common Core State Standards, including prekindergarten standards for both ELA/Literacy and math. Additions to the ELA/Literacy Common Core included an 11th standard, "Responding to Literature," and grade-level expectations for student inquiry, culture and diversity.

Math additions included two specific grade-level standards. Kindergartners must develop an understanding of ordinal numbers (first through 10th) and first-graders must be able to

recognize and identify coins by their names and values.

The Pre-Kindergarten Foundation standards will serve as a resource guide for pre-K providers, offering a template for professional development and a framework with pre-K instructional activities. The primary purpose of the pre-K standards is to ensure that all students, including children with disabilities and English language learners have rich early learning experiences that prepare them for success in school. Both PTA and NYSUT, however, oppose pre-K-2 standardized testing, except for diagnostic purposes.

Key ELA shifts

Read as much non-fiction as fiction

Learn about the world by reading

Read more challenging material closely

Discuss reading using evidence

Write non-fiction using evidence

Increase academic vocabulary



Source: EngageNY.org



What's new for ELA?

Non-fiction makes up the majority of required reading in high school, college and the workplace. Since informational text is harder for students to understand than narrative text, more instructional time is needed to practice. The recommended time spent on literary texts to informational texts at the elementary level is 50/50; at the middle level is 45/55 and at the high school level is 30/70.

An emphasis on reading, writing and speaking based on evidence is another shift. This became part of the Common Core Learning Standards because most college and workplace writing requires evidence, being able to take a position or inform others through citing evidence.

The shift to regular practice with complex texts and academic language occurred because research showed that there is a gap in the difficulty of what students read by the end of high school and what they are required to read in both college and careers.

TIP: Look for “word problems” in real life. Have your child double or halve a recipe. Figure out how much soil is needed for a garden by measuring the length, width and depth.

Key math shifts

Focus: Learn more about fewer, key topics

Coherence: Build skills within and across grades

Rigor: Develop speed and accuracy

Really know it, really do it

Use it in the real world

Think fast AND solve problems

Source: EngageNY.org

For all of these shifts, the emphasis is on reading more complex texts. The features of complex text include density of information, multiple and/or subtle themes and purposes, unfamiliar settings or events, complex sentences, uncommon vocabulary, longer paragraphs and a text structure that is less narrative.



What's new for math?

In math, instructional shifts focus on fewer, more central standards, building core understandings and linking mathematical concepts to real-world skills. In developing the shifts in mathematics, the designers of the standards moved

away from what has been termed the “mile wide and an inch deep” approach to mathematics instruction in the United States.

The Common Core Learning Standards for mathematics stress conceptual understanding of key ideas and organizing principles of mathematics such as place value or the laws of arithmetic. The standards are designed to allow students to progress through mathematics in a coherent way, building skills within and across grades.

The Common Core defines what students should be able to do in mathematics through

grade-specific standards, emphasizing speed, accuracy and real-life problem-solving skills.



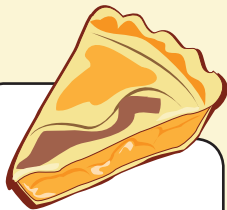
Will state tests be different?

Yes. State tests aligned with the New York State Common Core Learning Standards were first administered to grade 3-8 students in April 2013. The new assessments are different from past tests, with students responding to multiple

What will the new tests look like?

OLD: Grade 5 state math

Pierre is making an apple crumb pie using the items below.



APPLE CRUMB PIE

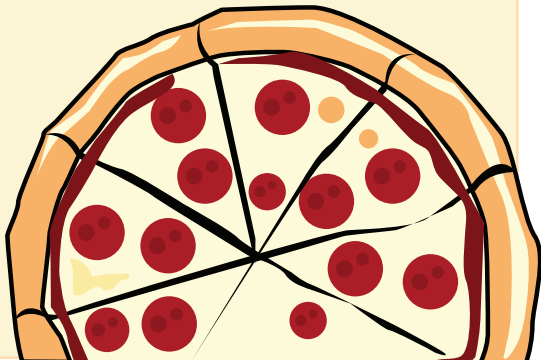
1/3 cup flour	4 cups sliced apples
1/3 cup sugar	1/3 cup sugar
1/4 cup butter	1/2 cup raisins

How much total sugar must Pierre use to make the pie crumb and filling?

- F 7/12 cup
- G 2/6 cup
- H 3/4 cup
- J 2/3 cup

NEW: Common Core grade 5 math

Tito and Luis are stuffed with pizza! Tito ate one-fourth of a cheese pizza. Tito ate three-eighths of a pepperoni pizza. Tito ate one-half of a mushroom pizza. Luis ate five-eighths of a cheese pizza. Luis ate the other half of the mushroom pizza. All the pizzas were the same size. Tito says he ate more pizza than Luis because Luis did not eat any pepperoni pizza. Luis says they each ate the same amount of pizza. Who is correct? Show all your mathematical thinking.



choice questions but also to open-ended items where they must show their work. ELA content will be based on non-fiction and original texts such as speeches or letters where students will be required to draw conclusions and support those conclusions with evidence from these sources. Math content will be more complex with students being challenged to solve multi-step problems and real-life applications.

Beginning in 2014, new math and English Regents exams in high school will be aligned to the Common Core. Current plans for 2015 include the expected availability of multi-state tests designed by the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC). While the New York Board of Regents has not yet decided if the state will adopt PARCC assessments or how they would be used, New York is a governing member of this 25-state consortium and will be influential in the development of these tests. Finally, the Regents expect that future assessment of Common Core skills will be computer-based. This transition could begin as early as the spring of 2015.



How will schools and educators be held accountable?

Schools and individual educators are held accountable using student test performance combined with additional measures such as classroom observation. Currently, 20 percent of each

educator's performance is based on growth in student test scores on state assessments. An additional 20 percent is based on local test results.

Where student tests are not available or not applicable, student performance is measured using locally developed student learning objectives, or SLO's. The final 60 percent of an educator's evaluation is measured using classroom observation and other evidence of teacher or principal performance. Local measures of student performance and SLO's are developed collaboratively by school districts and local unions and approved by the State Education Department.



How can I help my child at home?

Learning does not end in the classroom. Children need help and support at home to succeed in their studies. Try to create a quiet place for your child to study and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate on reading, writing and math uninterrupted by friends, family or other distractions. Keep informed about what your child is working on. This will help you know if your child needs help. If your child needs extra help, work with his or her teacher to find opportunities for tutoring, to get involved in clubs after school, or to find other resources. See page 9 for parent tips.



What are the challenges ahead?

While most educators support the Common Core, issues related to instructional implementation, student testing and the use of test results have introduced debate about the potential benefits of Common Core.

Implementation: Any major change takes time, attention to sequence of activities and opportunity to use experience to improve. New standards require development of new curriculum, new instructional methods, new materials and other resources. Extensive professional development will be required. Successful implementation will always be “a work in progress.”

Thorough evaluation of classroom practices, realistic funding and assessment of school calendar constraints will be necessary to realize the benefits of Common Core instruction.

Student testing: The recent overreliance on standardized testing has led to a de-emphasis on the basic purpose of student testing: to improve instruction. Continued attention must be given to the effects, sometimes unintended, of test length, frequency and time devoted

to student test preparation.

Equally important will be timely availability of test results to teachers and how those results can be used to improve quality of instruction and richness of curriculum.

In the end, the success of Common Core standards will rest not with results of an individual test but with real-world evidence that:

- New York is continuing its trend of recent improvement in high school graduation rates;
- The need for non-credit, post-high school remediation in basic skills is reduced;
- Students are better able to apply skills necessary to compete successfully in a global economy; and
- Instruction encourages a love and appreciation for lifelong learning that enriches all aspects of life.

TIP: Look for ways to practice academic, or school vocabulary, with your child at home. Examples of school language include such words as trace, analyze, infer, summarize, contrast and predict. Ask your child's teacher for more academic words that will be covered in your child's grade level.



What can parents do to help their child prepare for Common Core learning?



Read a combination of fiction and non-fiction aloud or with your child. Look for subjects that interest your child — from sports heroes to dinosaurs. Select more difficult passages over time.



Read more informational texts including newspapers, magazines, technical manuals, science and social studies articles and books.



Talk with your child and have him or her explain things.



Encourage writing at home.



Help your children know/ memorize basic math facts.



Discuss and “do” real life math with your children.



Look for “word problems” in real life.



Encourage a good work ethic.



Let your children see you read and “do” math.



Discuss with your children their performance in school and what they are learning.



Talk about tests with your child and be positive and encouraging.



Talk with your child’s teacher(s) about his or her performance in school.



Talk with your children about the importance of graduating from high school ready for college and career success.

Resources

- **National Parent Teacher Association** offers grade-by-grade guides for Common Core State Standards. Available in English and Spanish for K-8 and grades 9-12. Download at www.pta.org/parents/content.cfm?ItemNumber=2583
- **New York State United Teachers (NYSUT)** has a special section on its website for Common Core materials. Go to www.nysut.org/commoncore
- The **American Federation of Teachers (AFT)** offers grade-by-grade activities, explanations, and parent letters for Common Core. Go to www.aft.org/issues/standards/webinar.cfm

AFT also offers a Common Core brochure for parents of English language learners. Go to www.aft.org/pdfs/teachers/ColorinColorado_CCSS_links.pdf
- **National Education Association (NEA)** offers input from a panel of educators in "Six Ways the Common Core is Good for Students." Go to www.neatoday.org/2013/05/10/six-ways-the-common-core-is-good-for-students/
- **New York State Education Department** has posted Common Core materials at www.EngageNY.org



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The Board of Education meets on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room, unless otherwise posted. The Board reserves the fourth Thursday of every month as an optional meeting date.

Thursday, September 12, 2013

Thursday, October 10, 2013

Thursday, November 14, 2013

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Thursday, January 9, 2014

Thursday, February 13, 2014

Thursday, March 13, 2014

Monday, April 28, 2014 – Vote for BOCES Board Member &
Administrative Budget

Thursday, May 8, 2014 – Budget Hearing and Board Meeting

Thursday, June 12, 2014

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