Parents’ Guide to
Common Core
and
California State Standards

This guide is based on the new Common Core State Standards, which have been adopted by more than 45 states including California.

This information provides an overview of what your child will learn by the end of third grade in English Language and Mathematics (Common Core State Standards).

Included are the California Standards for Social Studies and Physical Fitness, as well as the Technology Standards which are based on what the Saugus Union School District believes students need to master to be successful.

If your child is meeting the third grade expectations outlined in these standards, he or she will be well prepared for 4th grade.

Help Your Child Learn at Home

Try to create a quiet place for your child to study, and carve out time every day when your child can concentrate.

You should also try to sit down with your child at least once a week for 15 to 30 minutes while he or she works on homework. This will keep you informed about what your child is working on, and it will help you be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics. Additionally, here are some activities you can do with your child to support learning at home:

English Language Arts & Literacy
■ Make reading for fun a part of your child’s daily routine
■ Encourage your child to find a picture from a newspaper or magazine, cut it out, paste it on paper, and write a story about it
■ Start a family vocabulary box or jar. Have everyone write down new words they discover, add them to the box, and use the words in conversation

Mathematics
Look for “word problems” in real life. Some 3rd grade examples might include:
■ Notice those everyday occasions when you find yourself using your times tables — such as to determine how many days there are in four weeks. Ask your child for the answer.
■ Involve your child when you notice yourself using division to “work backward” in the times tables — such as determining how many candies each child will get if 36 candies are shared equally among nine children at a party. For more information, the full standards are available at www.corestandards.org

www.pta.org
ELA: Reading Standards for Literature (RL)

Key Ideas and Details:
1. Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
2. Recount stories, including fables, folktales, and myths from diverse cultures; determine the central message, lesson, or moral and explain how it is conveyed through key details in the text.
3. Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.

Craft and Structure:
4. Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area. (See grade 3 Language standards 406 for additional expectations.)
5. Use text features and search tools (e.g., key words, sidebars, hyperlinks) to locate information relevant to a given topic efficiently.
6. Distinguish their own point of view from that of the narrator or those of the characters.

Integration and Knowledge and Ideas:
7. Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).
8. Compare and contrast the themes, settings, and plots of stories written by the same author about the same or similar characters (e.g., in books from a series).

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity:
10. By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poetry, at the high end of the grades 2-3 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

Reading Standards for Informational Text (RI)

Key Ideas and Details:
1. Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers.
2. Determine the main idea of a text; recount the key details and explain how they support the main idea.
3. Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text; using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.

Craft and Structure:
4. Determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a grade 3 topic or subject area. (See grade 3 Language standards 406 for additional expectations.)
5. Use text features and search tools (e.g., key words, sidebars, hyperlinks) to locate information relevant to a given topic efficiently.
6. Distinguish their own point of view from that of the author of a text.

Integration of Knowledge and Ideas:
7. Use information gained from illustrations (e.g., maps, photographs) and the words in a text to demonstrate understanding of the text (e.g., where, when, why, and how key events occur).
8. Describe the logical connection between particular sentences and paragraphs in a text (e.g., comparison, cause/effect, first/second/third in a sequence).
9. Compare and contrast the most important points and key details presented in two texts on the same topic.

Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity:
10. By the end of the year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, at the high end of the grades 2-3 text complexity band independently and proficiently.

Phonics and Word Recognition:
1. Know and apply grade-level phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words both in isolation and in text.
   a. Identify and know the meaning of the most common prefixed and derivational suffixes.
   b. Decode words with common Latin suffixes.
   c. Decode multisyllable words.

Fluency:
4. Read with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension.
   a. Read on-level text with purpose and understanding.
   b. Read on-level prose orally with accuracy, appropriate rate, and expression on successive readings.
   c. Use context to confirm or self-correct word recognition and understanding, rereading as necessary.

Text Types and Purposes:
1. Write opinion pieces on topics or texts, supporting a point of view with reasons.
   a. Introduce the topic or text they are writing about, state an opinion, and create an organizational structure that lists reasons.
   b. Provide reasons that support the opinion.
   c. Use linking words and phrases (e.g., because, therefore, since, for example) to connect opinion and reasons.
   d. Provide a concluding statement or section.
2. Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
   a. Introduce a topic and group related information together; include illustrations when useful to aiding comprehension.
   b. Develop the topic with facts, definitions, and details.
   c. Use linking words and phrases (e.g., also, another, and, more, but) to connect ideas within categories of information.
   d. Provide a concluding statement or section.
3. Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, descriptive details, and clear event sequences.
   a. Establish a situation and introduce a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally.
   b. Use dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings to develop experiences and events or show the response of characters to situations.
   c. Use temporal words and phrases to signal event order.
   d. Provide a sense of closure.

Production and Distribution of Writing:
4. With guidance and support from adults, produce writing in which the development and organization are appropriate to task and purpose. (Grade-specific expectations for writing types are defined in standards 1-3 above.)
5. With guidance and support from peers and adults, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, and editing. (Editing for conventions should demonstrate command of Language standards 1-3 up to and including grade 3.)
6. With guidance and support from adults, use technology to produce and publish writing (using keyboarding skills) as well as to interact and collaborate with others.

Research to Build and Present Knowledge:
7. Conduct short research projects that build knowledge about a topic.
8. Recall information from experiences or gather information from print and digital sources; take
brief notes on sources and sort evidence into providing categories.

9. (Begins in grade 4)

Range of Writing:

10. Write routinely over extended time frames (time for research, reflection, and revision) and shorter time frames (a single sitting or a day or two) for a range of discipline-specific tasks, purposes, and audiences.

Speaking and Listening Standards (SL)

Comprehension and Collaboration:

1. Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 3 topics and texts, building on others’ ideas and expressing their own clearly.
   a. Come to discussions prepared, having read or studied required material; explicitly draw on that preparation and other information known about the topic to explore ideas under discussion.
   b. Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions (e.g., gaining the floor in respectful ways, listening to others with care, speaking one at a time about the topics and texts under discussion).
   c. Ask questions to check understanding of information presented, stay on topic, and link their comments to the remarks of others.
   d. Explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.

2. Determine the main ideas and supporting details of a text read aloud or information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

3. Ask and answer questions about information from a speaker, offering appropriate elaboration and detail.

Presentation of Knowledge and Ideas:

4. Report on a topic or text, tell a story, or recount an experience with appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details, speaking clearly at an understandable pace.
   a. Plan and deliver an informative/explanatory presentation on a topic that: organizes ideas around major points of information, follows a logical sequence, includes supporting details, uses clear and specific vocabulary, and provides strong conclusion.

5. Create engaging audio recordings of stories or poems that demonstrate fluid reading at an understandable pace; add visual displays when appropriate to emphasize or enhance certain facts or details.

6. Speak in complete sentences when appropriate to task and situation in order to provide requested detail or clarification. (See grade 3 Language standards 1 and 3 for specific expectations.)

Language Standards (L)

Conventions of Standard English:

1. Demonstrate command of the conventions of Standard English grammar and usage when writing or speaking.
   a. Explain the function of nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs in general and their functions in particular sentences.
   b. Form and use regular and irregular plural nouns.
   c. Use abstract nouns (e.g., childhood).
   d. Form and use regular and irregular verbs.
   e. Form and use the simple (e.g., I walked; I walk; I will walk) verb tenses.
   f. Ensure subject-verb and pronoun-antecedent agreement.
   g. Form and use comparative and superlative adjectives and adverbs, and choose between them depending on what it is to be modified.
   h. Use coordinating and subordinating conjunctions.
   i. Produce simple, compound, and complex sentences.
   j. Write legibly in cursive or joined italics, allowing margins and correct spacing between letters in a word and words in a sentence.
   k. Use reciprocal pronouns correctly.

2. Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
   a. Capitalize appropriate words in titles.
   b. Use commas in addresses.
   c. Use commas and quotation marks in dialogue.
   d. Form and use possessives.
   e. Use conventional spelling for high-frequency and other studied words and for adding suffixes to base words (e.g., sitting, smiled, cries, happiness).
   f. Use spelling patterns and generalizations (e.g., word families, position-based spellings, syllable patterns, ending rules, meaningful word parts) in writing words.
   g. Consult reference materials, including beginning dictionaries, as needed to check and correct spellings.

Knowledge of Language:

3. Use knowledge of language and its conventions when writing, speaking, reading, or listening.
   a. Choose words and phrases for effect.
   b. Recognize and observe differences between the conventions of spoken and written standard English.

Vocabulary Acquisition and Use:

4. Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning word and phrases based on grade 3 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
   a. Use sentence-level context as a clue to the meaning of a word or phrase.
   b. Determine the meaning of the new word formed when a known affix is added to a known word (e.g., agreeable/disagreeable, comfortable/uncomfortable, care/careless, heat/preheat).
   c. Use a known root word as a clue to the meaning of an unknown word with the same root (e.g., company, companion).
   d. Use glossaries or beginning dictionaries, both print and digital, to determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases in all content areas.
   e. Demonstrate understandings of word relationships and nuances in word meanings.
      a. Distinguish the literal and non-literal meanings of words and phrases in context (e.g., take steps).
      b. Identify real-life connections between words and their use (e.g., describe people who are friendly or helpful).
      c. Distinguish shades of meaning among related words that describe state of mind or degrees of certainty (e.g., know, believed, suspected, heard, wondered).
   f. Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate conversational, general academic, and domain-specific words and phrases, including those that signal spatial and temporal relationships (e.g., After dinner that night we went looking for them).
Develop understanding of fractions as numbers:

1. Understand a fraction 1/b as the quantity formed by 1 part when a whole is partitioned into b equal parts; understand a fraction a/b as the quantity formed by parts of size 1/b.
2. Understand a fraction as a number on the number line; represent fractions on a number line diagram.
   a. Represent a fraction 1/b on a number line diagram by defining the interval from 0 to 1 as the whole and partitioning it into b equal parts.
   b. Recognize that each part has size 1/b and that its endpoint locates the number a/b on the number line.
3. Explain equivalence of fractions in special cases, and compare fractions by reasoning about their size.
   a. Understand two fractions as equivalent (equal) if they are the same size, or the same point on a number line.
   b. Recognize and generate simple equivalent fractions, e.g., 1/2 = 2/4, 4/6 = 2/3. Explain why the fractions are equivalent, e.g., by using a visual fraction model.
   c. Express whole numbers as fractions, and recognize fractions that are equivalent to whole numbers. Examples: Express 3 in the form 3/1; recognize that 6/1 = 6; locate 4/4 and 1 at the same point of a number line diagram.
4. Compare two fractions with the same numerator or the same denominator by reasoning about their size. Recognize that comparisons are valid only when the two fractions refer to the same whole. Record the results of comparisons with the symbols >, =, or <, and justify the conclusions, e.g., by using a visual fraction model.

Represent and solve problems involving multiplica-
tion and division:
1. Interpret products of whole numbers, e.g., inter-
   pret 5 × 7 as the total number of objects in 5 groups of 7 objects each. For example, describe a context in which a total number of objects can be expressed as 5 × 7.
2. Interpret whole-number quotients of whole
   numbers, e.g., interpret 56 ÷ 8 as the number
   of objects in each share when 56 objects are parti-
tioned equally into 8 shares, or as a number of
   shares when 56 objects are partitioned into
equal shares of 8 objects each. For example, describe a context in which a number of shares or a number of groups can be expressed as 56 ÷ 8.
3. Use multiplication and division within 100 to solve
   word problems in situations involving equal groups, arrays, and measure-ment quanti-
ties, e.g., by using drawings and equations with a symbol for the unknown number to represent the problem.
4. Determine the unknown whole number in a
   multiplication or division equation relating
   three whole numbers. For example, determine
   the unknown number that makes the equation true in each of the equations 8 × ? = 48, 5 = ? + 3, 6 × 6 = ?

Use place value understanding and properties of opera-
tions to perform multi-digit arithmetic:
1. Use place value understanding to round whole
   numbers to the nearest 10 or 100.
2. Fluently add and subtract within 1000 using
   strategies and algorithms based on place value, properties of operations, and/or the relationship between addition and subtraction.

Represent and interpret data:
1. Draw a scaled picture graph and a scaled bar
   graph to represent a data set with several catego-
   ries. Solve one- and two-step "how many more" and "how many less" problems using information presented in scaled bar graphs. For example, draw a bar graph in which each square in the bar graph might represent 5 pets.
2. Generate measurement data by measuring lengths using rulers marked with halves and fourths of an inch. Show the data by making a line plot, where the horizontal scale is marked off in appropriate units—whole numbers, halves, or quarters.

Geometric measurement: understand concepts of area and relate area to multiplication and addition:
1. Recognize area as an attribute of plane figures and understand concepts of area measurement.
   a. A square with side length 1 unit, called "a unit square," is said to have "one square unit" of area, and can be used to measure area.
   b. A plane figure which can be covered without gaps or overlaps by n unit squares is said to have an area of n square units.
2. Measure areas by counting unit squares (square cm, square in, square ft, and improvised units).
3. Relate area to the operations of multiplication
and addition.

a. Find the area of a rectangle with whole-number side lengths by tiling it, and show that the area is the same as would be found by multiplying the side lengths.

b. Multiply side lengths to find areas of rectangles with whole-number side lengths in the context of solving real-world and mathematical problems, and represent whole-number products as rectangular areas in mathematical reasoning.

c. Use tiling to show in a concrete case that the area of a rectangle with whole-number side lengths a and b + c is the sum of a × b and a × c. Use area models to represent the distributive property in mathematical reasoning.

d. Recognize area as additive. Find areas of rectilinear figures by decomposing them into non-overlapping rectangles and adding the areas of the non-overlapping parts, applying this technique to solve real-world problems.

Geometric measurement: recognize perimeter as an attribute of plane figures and distinguish between linear and area measures: 8. Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving perimeters of polygons, including finding the perimeter given the side lengths, finding an unknown side length, and exhibiting rectangles with the same perimeter and different areas or with the same area and different perimeters.

Geometry (3.G)

Reason with shapes and their attributes:
1. Understand that shapes in different categories (e.g., rhombuses, rectangles, and others) may share attributes (e.g., having four sides), and that the shared attributes can define a larger category (e.g., quadrilaterals). Recognize rhombuses, rectangles, and squares as examples of quadrilaterals, and draw examples of quadrilaterals that do not belong to any of these subcategories.

2. Partition shapes into parts with equal areas. Express the area of each part as a unit fraction of the whole as a sum of parts.

3. Draw and identify lines and angles, and classify shapes by properties of their lines and angles.

History/Social Sciences (California Standard)

- Describes the physical and cultural landscape of California
- Uses maps, globes, tables, graphs, charts, timelines, and photographs to organize information
- Compares the past with the changes of the present
- Recognizes that the ways that the natural resources have been utilized to modify the environment
- Acquires knowledge of the local American Indian Cultures and their interaction with incoming settlers
- Understands the historical development of their community
- Understands the role of rules and laws in daily life and the basic structure of the Unites States government
- Students demonstrate basic economic reasoning skills
- Understands how local producers use natural, human and capital resources to produce goods and services
- Understands that some things are made locally, some elsewhere in the U.S. and some in other countries

Physical Fitness

Students demonstrate knowledge of movement concepts, principles, and strategies that apply to the learning and performance of physical activities.

Movement Concepts:
1. Describe how changing speed and changing direction can allow one person to move away from another.
2. Explain and demonstrate the correct hand position when catching a ball above the head, below the waist, near the middle of the body, and away from the body.
3. Explain the difference between throwing to a stationary partner and throwing to a moving partner.
4. Identify the key elements for increasing accuracy in rolling a ball and throwing a ball.
5. Identify the differences between dribbling a ball (with the hand and the foot, separately) while moving forward and when changing direction.
6. Define the terms folk dance, line dance, and circle dance.
7. Compare and contrast folk dances, line dances, and circle dances.

Physical Fitness  Calif. Standard– 1

Students demonstrate the motor skills and movement patterns needed to perform a variety of physical activities.

Movement Concepts:
1. Chase, flee, and move away from others in a constantly changing environment.
2. Perform an inverted balance (tripod) by evenly distributing weight on body parts.
3. Perform a forward roll.
4. Perform a straddle roll.
5. Jump continuously a forward-turning rope and a backward-turning rope.

Manipulative Skills:
1. Balance while traveling and manipulating an object on a ground-level balance beam.
2. Catch, while traveling, an object thrown by a stationary partner.
3. Roll a ball for accuracy toward a target.
4. Throw a ball, using the overhand movement pattern with increasing accuracy.
5. Throw and catch an object with a partner, increasing the distance from the partner and maintaining an accurate throw that can be easily caught.
6. Kick a ball to a stationary partner, using the inside of the foot.

Physical Fitness  Calif. Standard– 2

Students assess and maintain a level of physical fitness to improve health and performance.

Fitness Concepts:
1. Demonstrate warm-up and cool-down exercises.
2. Demonstrate how to lift and carry objects correctly.
3. Participate three to four days each week, for increasing periods of time, in continuous moderate to vigorous physical activities that require sustained movement of the large-muscle groups to increase breathing and heart rate.
4. Perform increasing numbers of each: abdominal curl-ups, oblique curl-ups on each side, modified push-ups or traditional push-ups with hands on a bench, forward lunges, side lunges, and triceps push-ups from a chair.
5. Climb a vertical pole or rope.

Flexibility:
1. Hold for an increasing period of time basic stretches for hips, shoulders, hamstrings, quadriceps, triceps, biceps, back, and neck.

Body Composition:
1. Sustain continuous movement for increasing periods of time while participating in moderate to vigorous physical activity.

Assessment:
1. Measure and record improvement in individual fitness activities.

Physical Fitness  Calif. Standard– 3

Students demonstrate knowledge of physical fitness concepts, principles, and strategies to improve health and performance.

Fitness Concepts:
1. Identify the body’s normal reactions to moderate to vigorous physical activity.
2. List and define the components of physical fitness.
3. Explain the purpose of warming up before physical activity and cooling down after physical activity.
4. Recognize that the body will adapt to increased workloads.
5. Explain that fluid needs are linked to energy expenditure.
6. Discuss the need for oxygen and fuel to be available during ongoing muscle contraction so that heat and waste products are removed.

Aerobic Capacity:
1. Demonstrate warm-up and cool-down exercises.
2. Demonstrate how to lift and carry objects correctly.
3. Participate three to four days each week, for increasing periods of time, in continuous moderate to vigorous physical activities that require sustained movement of the large-muscle groups to increase breathing and heart rate.

Muscular Strength/Endurance:
1. Perform increasing numbers of each: abdominal curl-ups, oblique curl-ups on each side, modified push-ups or traditional push-ups with hands on a bench, forward lunges, side lunges, and triceps push-ups from a chair.
2. Climb a vertical pole or rope.

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1. Perform increasing numbers of each: abdominal curl-ups, oblique curl-ups on each side, modified push-ups or traditional push-ups with hands on a bench, forward lunges, side lunges, and triceps push-ups from a chair.
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1. Perform increasing numbers of each: abdominal curl-ups, oblique curl-ups on each side, modified push-ups or traditional push-ups with hands on a bench, forward lunges, side lunges, and triceps push-ups from a chair.
2. Climb a vertical pole or rope.
4.10 Identify which muscles are used in performing muscular endurance activities.
4.11 Name and locate the major muscles of the body.
4.12 Describe and demonstrate how to relieve a muscle cramp.
4.13 Describe the role of muscle strength and proper lifting in the prevention of back injuries.

Flexibility:
4.14 Identify flexibility exercises that are not safe for the joints and should be avoided.
4.15 Explain why a particular stretch is appropriate preparation for a particular physical activity.

Body Composition:
4.16 Differentiate the body’s ability to consume calories and burn fat during periods of inactivity and during long periods of moderate physical activity.

Physical Fitness  Calif. Standard– 5

Students demonstrate and utilize knowledge of psychological and sociological concepts, principles, and strategies that apply to the earning and performance of physical activity.

Self-Responsibility:
5.1 Set a personal goal to improve a motor skill and work toward that goal in nonschool time.
5.2 Collect data and record progress toward mastery of a motor skill.
5.3 List the benefits of following and the risks of not following safety procedures and rules associated with physical activity.

Social Interaction:
5.4 Use appropriate cues for movement and positive words of encouragement while coaching others in physical activities.
5.5 Demonstrate respect for individual differences in physical abilities.

Group Dynamics:
5.6 Work in pairs or small groups to achieve an agreed-upon goal.

Databases:
Identify and explain terms and concepts related to databases (i.e., record, field, search) (D)
Conduct simple searches of existing databases (i.e., library, catalogue, electronic encyclopedia) (D)
Describe the use of databases to store, organize, and search information in real-world settings. (I)

Multimedia and Presentations:
Use painting and drawing programs to create and edit work. (A)
Insert and resize graphics in a slide. (D)
Create a series of slides and organize them to present research or convey an idea. (I)
Create a multimedia presentation using various media (i.e., audio, visual, animations) (I)

Using the Internet:
Explain and use terms related to a network (i.e., username, password, network, file server). (M)
Explain and use terms related to the Internet (i.e. web browser, URL, keyword, search engine, links). (M)
Evaluate Internet resources in terms of their usefulness and reliability for research. (I)
Locate, download, and use content from digital media collections for specific projects. (I)

Ethics and Safety:
Follow school/classroom rules for the responsible use of computers, peripheral devices, and the Internet. (A)
Explain ethical issues related to privacy, cyberbullying, plagiarism, spam, viruses, hacking, and file sharing. (D)
Explain and follow Fair Use Guidelines for using copyrighted materials (i.e., images, music, video, text) in school projects. (D)
Explain the potential risks and dangers associated with various forms of online communications. (D)
Explain and use safe practices for sharing personal information via the Internet and other medium. (D)
Identify and describe ways in which technology is used at home, as school, and in society. (D)
Analyze digital media messages to determine if their purpose is to inform, persuade, or entertain. (D)