On Common Ground

Third Grade, Trimester 1

This newsletter provides an overview of what your child will learn based on the Missouri Learning Standards during the first trimester of third grade in reading, writing, and mathematics. It also offers ideas to support your child’s learning at home.

WHAT ARE THE MISSOURI LEARNING STANDARDS?

The Missouri Learning Standards initiative was a state-led effort to establish a shared set of clear academic standards for English language arts and mathematics that districts may voluntarily adopt. The standards have been created based on the best available evidence and the highest state standards across the country.

- The standards were created by a group of teachers, content experts, school administrators, and parents.
- The goal of the standards is to ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to go to college or enter the workforce and that parents, teachers, and students have a clear understanding of what is expected from them.
- The standards are also benchmarked to international standards to guarantee that students are competitive in the emerging global marketplace.

Reading

At school, students will:
- Describe the traits, motivations, or feelings of characters in a story and how their actions impact the story’s events.
- Explain how specific aspects of a text’s illustrations contribute to the mood of a story or emphasize aspects of a character or setting.
- Identify the main idea of a text and recount key details that support the main idea.
- Use information gained from text features, such as maps and photographs to understand the text.
- Read multi-syllable words.

At home, you can:
- Talk to your child about books they are reading. Ask him/her to explain the characters and the decisions the characters make in the story.
- Read stories and articles together. Discuss the main idea and find details that support the main idea.
- Read informational texts, such as news articles or magazines. Point out maps and photographs.

Writing

At school, students will:
- Write narrative stories to share real or imaginative experiences or events, including a situation and a narrator and/or characters.
- Develop experiences and events in a story that unfold smoothly and naturally and provide a sense of closure.
- Use temporal words and phrases, such as “eventually” or “the following day.”
- Take brief notes from print and digital sources and sort notes into categories.
- Use commas and quotation marks when using dialogue in writing.

At home, you can:
- Write narrative stories together, where all family members contribute to a story. Your child can do all the writing, or the whole family can take turns writing.
- Show your child how to use commas and quotation marks in writing.
- Encourage your child to write every day by keeping a journal or diary with his/her own stories.

Mathematics

At school, students will:
- Immediately recall multiplication facts (products up to 81).
- Determine the unknown number in a multiplication or division equation relating three whole numbers (e.g., 3 x ___ = 24; 72 ÷ ___ = 9).
- Use multiplication and division up to 100 to solve word problems.

At home, you can:
- Help your child understand the concepts of multiplication and division.
- Practice multiplication facts with products up to 81.