

The Pennsylvania Core Standards and Required Shifts

Governor Mifflin has a steadfast commitment to providing a continually improving educational program to every student. The following information will provide you with some understanding of Pennsylvania's shift to the PA Core Standards. Beginning in 2014-2015 all English Language Arts and mathematics curriculum must be aligned to the PA Core Standards. Governor Mifflin has already made this required transition.

The PA Core Standards:

- Prepare students with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in college and work.
- Provide educators, students, and parents with clear and focused standards.
- Set consistent expectations at each grade level.
- Include both knowledge and application within the content area.
- Are evidence and research-based.

Key Shifts in English Language Arts:

- Read a balance of both non-fiction and fiction text.
- Learn about the world by reading.
- Read more challenging text closely.
- Discuss reading using evidence.
- Writing non-fiction using evidence from sources.
- Increasing academic vocabulary

Key Shifts in Mathematics:

- Focus: Learn more about fewer key topics.
- Coherence: Build mathematical skills within and across grade levels.
- Rigor: Develop deep, authentic command of math concepts through:
 - Conceptual/deep understanding of content
 - Procedural skill and fluency
 - Application of math in situations that require mathematical knowledge.

How can you help your child?

1. Read a combination of both fiction and non-fiction aloud with your child. Select more difficult text over a period of time.
2. Read informational text from newspapers, manuals, science and social studies articles and books.
3. Talk with your child and have him/her explain things.
4. Encourage writing at home.
5. Help your child with their basic math facts.
6. Look for problems based in real life.
7. Encourage a good work ethic.
8. Discuss with your child what they are learning at school.