

MATHEMATICS



To improve student learning, the new Common Core State Standards are different from the old ones. These changes are called shifts. The chart below shows what is shifting, what you might see in your child's backpack and what you can do to help your child. Again, if your child's assignments do not reflect the shifts, then talk to your child's teacher.

What's Shifting?	What to Look for in the Backpack?	What Can You Do?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will <u>work more deeply in fewer topics</u>, which will ensure full understanding. (less is more!) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for assignments that require students to show their work and explain how they arrived at an answer. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know what concepts are important for your child based on their grade level and spend time working on those concepts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will <u>keep building on learning year after year</u>, starting with a strong foundation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for assignments that build on one another. For example, students will focus on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. Once these areas are mastered, they will focus on fractions. Building on that, they will then focus on Algebra. You should be able to see the progression in the topics they learn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know what concepts are important for your child based on their grade level and spend time working on those concepts.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will <u>spend time practicing and memorizing math facts</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for assignments that build on one another. For example, students will focus on adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. Once these areas are mastered, they will focus on fractions. You should be able to see the progression in the topics they learn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be aware of what concepts your child struggled with last year and support your child in those challenge areas moving forward.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will <u>understand why the math works and be asked to talk about and prove their understanding</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child might have assignments that focus on memorizing and mastering basic math facts, which are important for success in more advanced math problems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help your child know and memorize basic math facts. Ask your child to "do the math" that pops up in daily life.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will now be asked to <u>use math in real-world situations</u>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for math assignments that are based on the real world. For instance, homework for 5th graders might include adding fractions as part of a dessert recipe or determining how much pizza friends ate based on fractions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide time every day for your child to work on math at home.

TALKING TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

When talking to your child's teacher, try to keep the conversation focused on the most important topics that relate to your child. This means asking the teacher how your child is performing based on grade-level standards and expectations.

Ask how common core standards are being incorporated into classroom work. Also, ask to see a sample of your child's regular classwork. You can begin to identify how your child's classroom assignments are changing and discuss ways for you to support them through the changes at home.

Knowing this information will enable you make important adjustments at home that can help your child achieve success in the classroom.