



DIOCESE OF LAS VEGAS

Common Core State Standards

Information for Parents

What are standards?

Standards are a set of expectations outlining what a student should know and be able to do at a particular grade level. They guide both curriculum and assessment. Standards do *not* tell teachers how to teach.

What are the Common Core State Standards?

The Common Core State Standards are a coherent set of learning expectations in English Language Arts and mathematics designed to help prepare PK-12 students for college and career success.

They were developed through the collaboration of teachers, school administrators, content experts, and state leaders from the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers.

How has the Diocese been preparing for the transition to the Common Core?

The Diocese of Las Vegas has taken a proactive stance with regard to embracing the Common Core Standards. Over the course of this past year, teachers and principals have received professional development to (1) familiarize them with these new standards, and (2) help them begin to understand and discuss their implication for classroom instruction.

Common Core-aligned unit plans in English Language Arts and mathematics have been developed and made available to teachers to help guide their instruction as they make this transition.

Where can you find additional information about the Common Core?

Common Core State Standards Initiative website:
www.corestandards.org

National PTA website:
http://www.pta.org/common_core_state_standards.asp

Nevada Department of Education Common Core resources:
<https://bighorn.doe.nv.gov/sites/CommonCore/ccss/default.aspx>

The Common Core State Standards:

- Are research and evidence-based
- Are aligned with college and work expectations
- Are clear, understandable, and consistent
- Build upon the strengths and lessons of current state standards
- Include rigorous content, essential academic skills, and application of knowledge through higher-order skills
- Are informed by other top-performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in a global economy/society

What can parents do?

Stay informed about what is happening in your child's school:

- ✓ Attend Open House and Parent Night meetings, parent-teacher conferences, and other school activities/events
- ✓ Continue to talk to your child about what he/she is learning
- ✓ Regularly talk to your child's teachers about how he/she is doing
- ✓ Ask your child's teachers for suggestions on how to support school work at home