

Common Core Information

Dear Parents:

Over the past few years you may have heard about the movement to create common educational standards throughout the United States. The Hartland Consolidated School District is in the process of determining what our curriculum will look like under the Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics (Math) as compared to the Michigan Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE's) and High School Content Expectations (HSCE's). More importantly, we are in the process of trying to ensure that our curricula address the content and skills necessary for every Hartland Consolidated School District graduate to be "college and career ready." The end result will be a rigorous curriculum for all students.

As we move this work forward, we want to keep you informed and help you better understand the impact that this shift in standards will have on your children. Below you will find three wonderful sources for information on the Common Core State Standards. The "engageny" website houses many videos on the shifts being made in the ELA and Math curriculum while the "Smarter Balanced" website houses sample assessment questions that may be used to assess student progress, depending on the method of assessment that the State of Michigan chooses to use in the future.

<http://www.corestandards.org/> (official site of the Common Core State Standards)

<http://www.engageny.org/> (Click on any of the topic boxes. I would look at the videos having to do with the shifts in teaching.)

<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/sample-items-and-performance-tasks/>
(Scroll down half the page and choose sample items for ELA or Math.)

It is important to note that any time the Hartland Consolidated School District engages in work to realign curriculum, teachers are a part of the process. This means that committees are formed and components of the new curriculum are piloted throughout the district in order to ensure that the newly aligned curriculum is grounded in research-based process and appropriate for our children at every grade level.

If you are interested in learning more about the Next Generation Science Standards, not yet adopted by the State Board of Education, you can visit <http://www.nextgenscience.org/next-generation-science-standards>.

If you have questions about the work being done to prepare our children for their future, please contact your child's principal or Chuck Hughes, Director of Curriculum and Instruction at chuckhughes@hartlandschools.us.