

# M A Y

## Mark Your Calendar

5/15	.....	Site Council Mtg.—7:00am
5/15	.....	PTO Meeting—3:15pm
5/15 & 16	.....	NVHS Scheduling @FMS
5/17	.....	Nat. Jr. Honor Society Induction—7:00pm
5/18	.....	Clerical Day—NO SCHOOL
5/18	.....	SOU Visit @SOU—8th grade
5-21-25	.....	SPIRIT WEEK
5/24	.....	5th Graders Visit Fleming
5/24	.....	Parent Night—6pm-7pm
5/25	.....	Talent Show—2pm
5/28	.....	Memorial Day—NO SCHOOL
6/1-3	.....	Band Six Flags Trip
6/8	.....	Spirit Trip
6/11	.....	Moving On Ceremony
6/12	.....	Last Day of School

**PARENT NIGHT**— On May 24 at 6:00pm Fleming will be hosting an information night for all 2012-13 6th, 7, and 8th grade parents. Mr. George will be providing information on the new Common Core State Standards. In addition, he will provide information regarding the Three Rivers School District's move toward implementing these standards through a proficiency based learning model. All 2012-13 Fleming parents are encouraged to attend.

### Principals & Office Staff

John George - Principal

Mark Higgins - Assistant  
Principal

Jerry Keeling— Counselor

Kym Woolsey— Office Mgr.

Pam Kudlac— Secretary

Maria Caruncho— Records

Office Hours: 7:30am-3:30pm

Office Phone: 476-8284

Office Fax: 471-2458

Greetings,

As we get close to the end of the 2011-2012 school year, I want to thank the many parents that have volunteered over this school year at our many functions, spirit days, and athletic events. Your presence and participation is vital to our success here at Fleming and is critical to providing the best possible experiences for our students. Thank you.

I would also like to take this opportunity to provide you with information regarding some changes that will be happening in the classroom next year. The Three Rivers School District, as is the entire state of Oregon, is in the process of restructuring curricular offerings from Kindergarten through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Our staff has undergone extensive professional development during the 2011-2012 school year to ensure an in depth understanding and smooth transition to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) which we will implement next school year. The CCSS are a set of shared K-12 learning expectations for students in English-Language Arts and Mathematics. The standards are the result of a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governor's Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The CCSS for grades K-12 were developed in collaboration with a variety of stakeholders including content experts, state education leaders, teachers, school administrators, and parents. The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn in K-12 math and English-Language Arts. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. The CCSS supports the college and career ready expectations of Oregon's new high school graduation requirements.

Parents, students and the community should be aware that these new standards require a higher level of mastery of information and concepts at all grade levels. This higher bar will impact student achievement and state assessment scores, at least initially. However, as this change is fully implemented we are certain that our students will once again rise to the top in terms of student performance. On Thursday May 24<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting combined "Parent Night" for the parents of all 2012-2013 Fleming students. On that night we will be presenting information and answering questions regarding these changes for next year.

Before that time, if you have any questions regarding the change to the Common Core Standards or our Proficiency Based Learning model please feel free to contact me.

John George  
Principal,  
Fleming Middle School  
Merlin Alternative Center

## What do the Common Core State Standards mean for my student?

Something exciting is happening in education in Oregon, something that all parents will want to know about - the **Common Core State Standards (CCSS)**. These newly adopted standards in English Language Arts and Math are important for your student's future success!

### Here's why:

**The standards are the same wherever you go.** Common standards mean that students in Oregon are learning the same thing as students across the country. Students moving into or out of Oregon will have a smoother educational transition because learning goals will now be the same across states.

**They're modeled on success.** The Common Core State Standards are aligned to international standards from the highest achieving countries. This means our students will be well prepared to compete both nationally and internationally.

**College and career ready is the name of the game.** All students graduating college and career-ready is the goal of the CCSS. These standards are designed to prepare students for success in whatever they choose to do after graduation.

**Real life is really important.** What students learn in school should be directly related to what they'll be required to do once they leave. The Common Core places a strong emphasis on reading informational and technical texts to prepare students for the demands of college and the workplace.

**College should not begin with remediation.** Too many students entering Oregon universities and community colleges require remedial classes in English and Math. The CCSS are designed to make that a problem of the past by fully preparing students for college-level coursework.

**Increased access to learning resources.** Common standards mean that learning resources and teaching and learning materials can be shared across states.

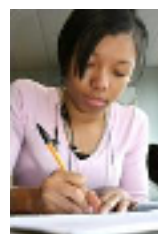
**21st century skills for 21st century jobs.** These standards will prepare our students for career success in the rapidly changing world of work.

Find out more about the Common Core on the ODE web site at

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/commoncore>

and check out the *CCSS Parent Guides* from the National PTA at

[www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3398](http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3398)





***Q: What are the Common Core State Standards?***

A: The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are a set of shared K-12 learning expectations for students in English-language arts and mathematics. The standards are the result of a state-led effort coordinated by the National Governor’s Association (NGA) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The CCSS for grades K-12 were developed in collaboration with a variety of stakeholders including content experts, state education leaders, teachers, school administrators, and parents. The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn in K-12 math and English language arts. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. The CCSS supports the college and career ready expectations of Oregon’s new graduation requirements.

***Q: Why does Oregon need common educational content standards?***

A: Today, each state has its own process for developing, adopting, and implementing standards. As a result, what students are expected to learn can vary widely from state to state. We know that our graduates will compete for jobs with students from other states and countries with more rigorous standards. Common standards help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in postsecondary education and the workforce. Common standards will help ensure that students are receiving a high quality education consistently, from school to school and state to state. Common standards will provide a greater opportunity to share experiences and best practices within and across states that will improve our ability to serve the needs of students.

***Q: Will the Common Core State Standards limit flexibility to tailor instruction to individual students?***

A: No. The Common Core State Standards are a clear set of shared goals and expectations for what knowledge and skills will help our students succeed. Local teachers, principals, superintendents, and others will decide how the standards are to be met. Teachers will continue to devise lesson plans and tailor instruction to the individual needs of the students in their classrooms. Local teachers, principals, superintendents, and school boards will continue to make decisions about curriculum and how their school systems are operated. Standards help teachers figure out the knowledge and skills their students should have so that teachers can build the best lessons for their classrooms.

***Q: What are some ways Oregon will benefit from common educational content standards?***

A: The CCSS will

- Help prepare students in Oregon and in the nation with the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in college and careers
- Allow states to align curricula to internationally benchmarked standards
- Allow for more focused pre-service education and professional development
- Create potential economies of scale for curriculum, instructional resources, and assessment
- Help students who move between states
- Help evaluate policies that affect student achievement across states

Help prepare students in Oregon and in the nation to compete for good jobs in a knowledge-based economy.

**Q: Will the new Common Core State Standards replace Oregon's existing academic content standards for mathematics and English language arts?**

A: Yes. These two new sets of standards will **replace** Oregon's current standards in English language arts and mathematics. While the new standards are similar to Oregon's current standards, some content has been shifted to ensure college and career readiness at the end of high school.

**Q: The Common Core State Standards are more rigorous than existing state standards. Will it be harder for schools to meet state and federal requirements?**

A: Parents, students, and teachers should understand that lower scores will not mean students know less than they did the year before or that they are somehow "doing worse in school." The new standards require a higher level of mastery of information and concepts and this higher bar will impact student scores, at least initially. Communities must recognize that it will take time for students to catch up to these more rigorous standards.

**Q: What is ODE doing to help schools transition to the Common Core Standards?**

A: ODE has

- Convened a CCSS Stewardship Team composed of educators, administrators, and education stakeholders to develop a comprehensive implementation timeline, plan, and identify resources for instruction and assessment.
- Helped to establish the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium that will build a CCSS common assessment for the partner states to be implemented in school year 2014-2015.

Provided mathematics teachers with an annotated crosswalk table (<http://www.ode.state.or.us/search/page/?id=3211>) that compares the CCSS to the current Oregon mathematics standards, illustrating what content has moved to different grade levels.

Provided English language arts *and* subject-area teachers with the Oregon K-12 Literacy Framework (<http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/literacyframework>) that supports implementation of the CCSS in English language arts and all other subjects. A number of states are using Oregon's Framework for this purpose.

- Completed two new sections of the Oregon K-12 Literacy Framework: a Writing section comparable to Reading and an extensive Reading professional development portal for coaches and teachers.
- Provided Strand 4 Oregon DATA Project training featuring implementation of the Reading and Writing CCSS and Essential Skills using the Oregon K-12 Literacy Framework.

Collaborated with other states to provide educators with a variety of tools and resources, including shared curriculum. Collaboration is ongoing.

**Q: How will the economies of scale benefit Oregon in implementing the CCSS?**

A: The economies of scale that the CCSS will bring will save our state money in these ways:

- Oregon will no longer need to revise and update English language arts and mathematics standards on its own.
- Instructional resources designed to support the CCSS can be *shared* among the states.
- Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium partner states will *share* the costs of developing and implementing a common assessment.
- Assessment resources including formative assessments will be *shared* among the Smarter Balanced consortium.

It is anticipated that textbooks and curriculum materials may be *shared* through open source environments.

- A **Joint Taskforce on Mathematics** that includes members from all major mathematics education organizations plans to provide a CCSS implementation website to *share* tools and resources for teachers. A **Common Core Curriculum Mapping Project** funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has designed and *shared* CCSS English language arts curriculum maps for districts.

**Q: When will students begin to see these changes in the classroom?**

A: Students could begin seeing Common Core content as soon as next school year (2011-12). Districts will first need to work with teachers to make sure everyone understands the knowledge and skills contained within each learning expectation. Teachers at each grade level need to understand what new content they are responsible

for teaching at their grade-level and what is no longer in their grade-level. While many of Oregon’s existing Academic Content Standards align to CCSS, some content is introduced in earlier grades in CCSS.

**Q: What is the CCSS common assessment?**

A: States adopting the CCSS will implement a student assessment system aligned with the CCSS for mathematics and English language arts beginning in the 2014-15 school year.

Along with 30 other states, Oregon is a member of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/>) which has formed to create an historic assessment system.

The common assessment is a natural continuation of the work already underway in Oregon and builds on our current assessment system and the work of the Oregon DATA Project.

By partnering with other states, Oregon will be able to leverage resources, share expertise, and produce a system that will meet the needs and expectations of Oregon students and teachers.

Until the common assessment is designed, piloted, and implemented, however, ODE will continue using the Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (OAKS) to assess students in math, reading, and writing. Oregon will continue to assess science and social science using OAKS until CCSS are developed for those content areas.

To find out more about the common assessment visit [www.smarterbalanced.org](http://www.smarterbalanced.org) .

**Smarter Balanced  
Assessment Consortium**  
<http://www.smarterbalanced.org/>

**Oregon Department of Education**  
[www.ode.state.or.us](http://www.ode.state.or.us)

**Oregon Common Core**  
[www.ode.state.or.us/go/commoncore](http://www.ode.state.or.us/go/commoncore)

An athletic note:

Once again the school year is winding down fast and with the completion of the 2011-12 academic year comes the completion of three seasons of athletic competitions. Fleming Middle School hosted the Boys' Preliminary qualifier at Hidden Valley High School prior to the SOMSAC district track meet. I have heard many compliments from other schools, coaches, and parents as to how smooth that event was. Thank you to all who volunteered to make this event such a success.

This past Saturday, Fleming Middle School track athletes competed in the SOMSAC district championships held at South Medford High School. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our student-athletes for representing Fleming in the most honorable manner. Our kids were leaders on and off the field of competition. As a group, our kids did great, with some near misses and some surprise district champions crowned. Thank you to both of our track coaches; Maria Caruncho and Principal John George for donating countless hours to our track kids. Also, I would like to thank Pam Kudlac and Kym Woolsey for all the behind the scenes work it takes to make sure our sports seasons go off without a hitch.

A special thank you goes out to all of you that volunteered throughout our sports seasons. Without your support and dedication we would struggle to offer the quality athletic programs that we currently employ.

As we head into the summer months, please remember our fall sports consist of Football (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>), Volleyball (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>), and Cross Country (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>). If your student wishes to participate, please send them to the front office for more information.

Have a great summer and once again, thank you for all of your help.

Mark Higgins  
Assistant Principal / Athletic Director  
Fleming Middle School

**EF TOURS/SMITHSONIAN**  
**2013 EAST COAST HISTORY TRIP**  
***Washington D.C., New York, Philadelphia***

*See the nation's capital, explore the Smithsonian museums, visit George Washington's estate, tour the Capital building, sit in on a session in Congress, take a picture in front of the White House, see all the memorials at night, watch the changing of the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and more! Go to New York—visit Central Park, take a walk across the Brooklyn Bridge, Tour Times Square, see a Broadway show, see the city from atop the Empire State Building, pay your respects at Ground Zero, go shopping at 5th Avenue, visit Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, and more!!! Philadelphia: Visit Independence Hall--where the Constitution was framed, see the Liberty Bell, go on a ghost tour, run up the "Rocky Steps, "explore the Constitution Center, and more!!*

Parents are welcome to join their student in the trip as well—make this a FAMILY TRIP!  
Questions??? Contact Chris Jelderks (6<sup>th</sup> Grade LA TEACHER) Phone: 541-476-8284  
E-mail: [christopher.jelderks@threerivers.k12.or.us](mailto:christopher.jelderks@threerivers.k12.or.us)

***We only have 35 spots available!***

## **PTO NEWS**

Our next meeting is 5/15 @3:15pm in the Library. We are Looking for a PTO president for next year. Also, if you would like to help with 8th Grade Dance, please call Nadyah at 541-479-8193.

Thank you!!!