

Benjamin Franklin School

Help your child do his/her Bulldog Best by following these three school rules:

- **Respect for Self**
- **Respect for Others**
- **Respect for School**



Upcoming Events:

Report Card Conferences

December 2,3,9
1:20 dismissals

Math/Literacy Night

December 17th
5:30-6:30

Winter Concert

Grades K,1,2,4
December 19th
1:30-2:30

Holiday Break

December 24-
January 2. School resumes on January 5th.

Principal's News

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Making Sense of the Common Core



As educators grapple with the shift in teaching and learning required to meet the Common Core State Standards, it is understandable parents would have anxiety and apprehension regarding these distinct changes. The “new learning” is very different than how we were taught in school. Any change is difficult, so information that helps us to make more sense of these changes is welcomed. The following information will hopefully help you understand what these changes are, and how they will benefit your children. The Common Core was

developed to address the need for students to be prepared for college, career and life. Below are the ma-



Common Core is a set of national standards to help prepare students for college, career and life.

Major shifts in instruction:

Language Arts:

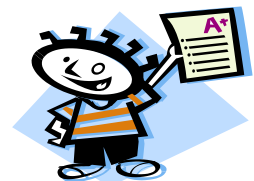
- More complex texts
- Use of text evidence
- Balance of fiction and non-fiction texts

Math:

- More focus on fewer topics
- Linking topics across grades
- Multiple strategies

With these shifts come new teaching methods which can be frustrating for parents not accustomed to these new methods; especially in math. Please give these methods time, and don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you need clarification regarding any assignments. We are here to support you! For more information, please join us on Dec. 17th from 5:30-6:30 for Math/Literacy Night.

Report Card Changes



For parents of 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students, you will notice a new report card to accompany the new curriculum. No longer will your child receive “letter grades” for the content areas, rather a number that signifies how well your child is progressing toward

the content standards. It will not be uncommon to see lower scores at this point in the year, as the content standards are end of the year goals. Please make sure you attend your child's parent/teacher conference to learn more about how your child

is progressing toward each content standard. Conferences are on Dec. 2nd, 3rd and 9th. Dismissal is at 1:20 on each of those days. Your attendance is very important! Thank you for your continued support!