

DEC NEWS

Dexter Middle - 901.416.0360

UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug. 26 - Meet the Teacher
night: 6-7:45pm

Sept. 24 - Fall Pictures

Oct. 21 - Fall Picture makeup

ACADEMIC WEBSITES

MATH

studyjams.scholastic.com

ixl.com

math.com

coolmath4kids.com

aplusmath.com

khanacademy.com

LANGUAGE ARTS

newsela.com

learningreviews.com

mrnussbaumreading.com

adaptedmind.com

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COMMON CORE: JUST THE FACTS

There are 4 things you should know to answer the question “what is the Common Core?”:

- It’s all about developing skills
- The standards build on each other
- The standards are more or less the same in every state
- The goal is college and career readiness

LANGUAGE ARTS: WHAT IS CLOSE READING?

To do a close reading, you choose a specific passage and analyze it in fine detail, as if with a magnifying glass. You then comment on points of style and on your reactions as a reader. Close reading is important because it is the building block for larger analysis. Your thoughts evolve not from someone else's truth about the reading, but from your own observations. The more closely you can observe, the more original and exact your ideas will be. To begin your close reading, ask yourself several specific questions about the passage. The following questions are not a formula, but a starting point for your own thoughts. When you arrive at some answers, you are ready to organize and write. You should organize your close reading like any other kind of essay, paragraph by paragraph, but you can arrange it any way you like. Next newsletter, I will go over exactly what to look for an analyze in the first, second, and third reading.

MATHEMATICS: 8 MATHEMATICAL PRACTICES

#1 Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them

What it means: Understand the problem, find a way to attack it, and work until it is done. Basically, you will find practice standard #1 in every math problem, every day. The hardest part is pushing students to solve tough problems by applying what they already know and to monitor themselves when problem-solving.

Own it: Give students tough tasks and let them work through them. Allow wait time for yourself and your students. Work for progress and “aha” moments. The math becomes about the process and not about the one right answer. Lead with questions, but don’t pick up a pencil. Have students make headway in the task themselves.

Stay tuned for mathematical practice #2: Reason Abstractly and Quantitatively

MANAGING BEHAVIOR

The key to managing behavior is to listen to what the person is trying to tell you. Be consistent in your approach, and try to avoid confrontation. Be aware of your body language, especially when you are under stress.

Although challenging behavior is a learned behavior remember that people with special needs don’t do it on purpose to ‘manipulate’ you. Behavior always happens for a good reason.

SOCIAL SKILLS: MORE AND BETTER RELATIONSHIPS

Identifying well with individuals leads to more relationships and, at times, friendships.

By developing your social skills you become more charismatic, a desirable trait . People are more interested in charismatic people as charismatic people are (or at least appear to be) more interested in them.

Most people know you cannot advance far in life without strong interpersonal relationships. Focusing on relationships will help you get a job, get promoted and make new friends. Well honed social skills can increase your happiness and satisfaction and give you a better outlook on life.

More relationships can also help to reduce the negative effects of stress and boost your self-esteem.

Find more at: <http://www.skillsyouneed.com/ips/social-skills.html#ixzz3j512Q7pS>