
Curriculum and NJ ASK Presentation

Golden Door Charter School 2013

Agenda

- NJ ASK
 - Common Core State Standards
 - Curriculum Documents
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Description of the NJ ASK

- New Jersey Assessment of Skills and Knowledge
- NJ ASK is the state test for students in grades 3-8 for math, language arts in science (4 and 8)
- This year, the English Language Arts (ELA) assessments, for grades 3-8, and Mathematics for grades 3-5 will measure the Common Core State Standards.

(NJDOE, 2013)

What types of assessment items are on the NJ ASK?

There are three major types of questions:

- Multiple Choice
- Open-Ended (respond with short or long written responses)
- Short Constructed (math, short answer, no calculator)
- Writing tasks (essays in different genres)

(NJDOE, 2013)

How can I help my child prepare for the NJ ASK throughout the year?

- Students should eat well, get plenty of sleep, and arrive to school on time.
 - Parents should support their children in all academic work.
 - Provide time and a quiet place for homework.
 - Make opportunities to read to each other.
 - Encourage children to talk about school and homework.
 - Encourage children to communicate and express their ideas.
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School-wide Concerns that Impact Academic Success

Reading

- Inference – Making an inference is like reading between the lines. An inference is an educated guess based on information and evidence in the text.
 - Vocabulary
 - Main Idea
 - Based on the title, what do you think the article will be about?
 - Is there one sentence that describes the main idea for this topic/story?
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School-wide Concerns that Impact Academic Success

Writing Traits

- **Ideas** – the main message
- **Organization** – the internal structure of the piece
- **Voice** – the personal tone and flavor of the author's message
- **Word Choice** – the vocabulary the writer chooses to convey meaning
- **Sentence Fluency** – the rhythm and flow of the language
- **Conventions** – the mechanical correctness

(Education Northwest, 1993)

School-wide Concerns that Impact Academic Success

Math

- Problem Solving/Multi-step Word Problems (ECR)
 - Math Facts (fluency)
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How can I receive more information about the NJ ASK?

- www.state.nj.us/education
- NJASK Parent and Student Information Guide

Common Core State Standards

Getting to know the terms:

- **CCSS:** Common Core State Standards; new educational standards developed by teachers, parents, and experts; adopted by 45 states as of March 2012
- **Standard:** Defines what a student should be able to do and understand at a certain grade level.

(NJDOE, 2013)

Why change what we have been doing?

- The standards will help American students compete globally.
- The standards will make sure graduates are prepared for college and the workplace.
- The standards will make sure that all students nationwide meet the same high expectations.

(CCSS Parent Guide, 2012)

How has the Common Core affected instruction?

The CCSS focus on critical thinking skills.

- In ELA, teachers use “high quality literature” and informational text (newspaper, magazines, non-fiction text).
- In writing, the shift has been towards evidence-based and text-dependent responses.
- In math, the goal is for students to learn how math works, not just how to memorize formulas.

(CCSS Parent Guide, 2012)

How has Golden Door prepared for The Common Core?

- Teachers have received professional development.
 - GDCS has aligned their curriculum to the standards.
 - GDCS has purchased new instructional materials that are aligned to the state standards.
 - GDCS is an active member of the Hudson County Curriculum Writing Consortium since fall of 2010.
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How can I find out more about the standards?

- www.state.nj.us/education
- www.corestandards.org

What to look for in the curriculum?

- Framework – Detailed description of ELA and math standards.
 - Program alignment to CCSS
 - Grade level benchmarks
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How can I access Golden Door's Curriculum?

- www.goldendoorschool.org
 - Click on Academics
 - Click on Curriculum Overviews
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Sources

- *Common Core State Standards Pre-K-12 Parent Guide*. New York, New York: Light Switch Learning/Sussman Sales Company, 2012.
 - *New Jersey Assessment of Skills & Knowledge NJASK: Parent, Student and Teacher Guide*. New Jersey Department of Education, 2013.
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