

Common Core Standards Update

Last week you may have noticed teachers were absent and various substitutes were on campus. Throughout the year the faculty will be attending meetings regarding the changes in our standards and the implementation of this new set of criteria. While change can be uncomfortable it is often inevitable but can provide a wonderful opportunity for growth. Unfortunately the implementation of the Common Core State Standards has recently become a political issue and as a result many heated discussions are taking place, some steeped in misinformation. It is my intent to keep you updated as we navigate through this shift. Here are a few key pieces of information you might find helpful:

- Diocese throughout the state have adopted these Standards (Superintendents' letter from last year is included in your envelope)
- Schools in the Diocese of Oakland are under the direction of the Superintendent and principals do not have the discretion about implementing this new set of standards.
- The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) are NOT a curriculum but a set of grade level criterion for students to work toward and eventually gain mastery, ideally in a one-year period.
- The Standards are designed to develop critical thinking, problem solving and analytical skills.
- The goal is to prepare students to be college and career ready.
- Each Diocese/District sets their own curriculum, including textbooks adoptions, instructional materials and methodology
- To begin this process St. Agnes School has:
 - Adopted the Superkids Reading Program (K-2)
 - Currently piloting:
 - Engage New York Math (K-2)
 - Go Math (3-5) Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publisher
 - Integration of the English Language Arts Standards (K-8)
 - Language Arts
 - Science
 - Social Studies
- Junior High teachers are scheduled to articulation with De La Salle & Carondelet in November to discuss continued and consistent transition of junior high students to the high school setting

Resources:

Common Core Initiative: <http://www.corestandards.org>

California State PTA: <http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/e-standards.cfm>