

Resources

Your child's teacher is the best source of information about what is being taught in the classroom. Ask for examples of work that is being done in the classroom. Ask questions such as: Does this work meet the standard? How can I help my child improve? Are there specific resources you would recommend?

You can find many resources online. Some of the sites you may wish to explore for more information include the following:

Office of Catechetical Formation and Education website: www.ocfecleveland.org

National Catholic Education Association: <http://www.ncea.org/>

The Common Core State Standards website: www.corestandards.org

U.S. Department of Education's Parent page: www2.ed.gov/parents

Ohio Department of Education: education.ohio.gov

Achieve the Core: achievethecore.org

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics: <http://www.nctm.org/>

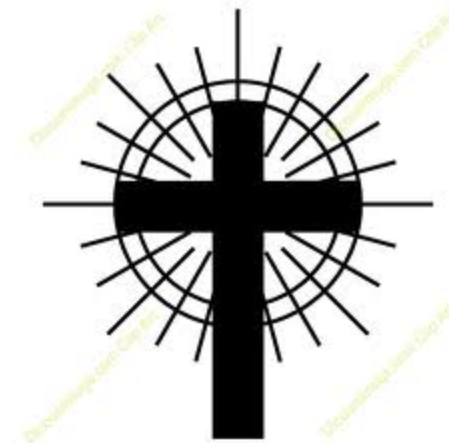
The National Council of Teachers of English: <http://www.ncte.org/>

How can you help?

Learning does not stop once the school day is over. You are the most important teacher in your child's education. Sit down with your child as homework is being completed to give you an understanding of what your child is learning and where specific struggles may be.

- As a family, read every evening for at least 10 minutes.
- Review math concepts being taught.
- Get a library card and take your child to the library every week.
- Share in the excitement of learning with your child.
- Talk to your child about what they are learning in school.

Parent Guide to Understanding the Curriculum ~ ~ ~ Kindergarten



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Changes You Will See

Mathematics Shifts

Focus: Each year, teachers will spend more time teaching important areas in mathematics. By focusing deeply on specific content, students will gain a strong foundation and a solid understanding of the concepts.

Coherence: The standards logically progress from grade to grade. The majority of standards at each grade level are not new topics, but extensions of what students have learned in previous years.

Rigor: Students are expected to have conceptual understanding of certain topics, fluency and skill in procedural calculations, and the ability to apply what they have learned in the classroom in everyday situations.

Language Arts Shifts

Informational Text: In addition to Literature, students will be reading more non-fiction pieces from across all content areas.

Evidence from Texts: Students will have to read more carefully to understand the message the author is trying to convey. Writing will focus more on argumentative instead of narrative.

Complex text and academic language: As career and technical texts have become more complex, what students were expected to read in school did not. The standards create a staircase of text complexity so all students are reading for the reading levels necessary for success in college or the career of their choosing.

What Your Child Will Learn

All curricula developed for the elementary schools in the Diocese of Cleveland are, first and foremost, based on the teachings of the Catholic Church. In addition, our curricula reflect the Common Core State Standards, the Ohio Learning Standards, and the standards of professional education associations. The Diocesan curriculum provides our students with an education that challenges them to live faith-filled lives and succeed in high school and beyond.

In Mathematics

There are two major areas of focus in Kindergarten. Children will learn numbers and what the numbers represent. The second is an introduction to addition and subtraction. These beginning skills will be used throughout your child's education. Children will use real-world examples to explain various shapes including squares, triangles, circles, rectangles, and hexagons. They will also explain cubes, cones, cylinders, and spheres.

Some of the activities your children will engage in during Kindergarten are:

- Counting objects in a group
- Adding and subtracting small numbers accurately
- Comparing two numbers
- Representing addition and subtraction by using objects or drawing pictures.

Example of the progression of a concept across grades K – 2

Kindergarten	Grade One	Grade Two
Describe objects in the environment using the names of shapes and describe the relative positions of these objects using above, below, beside...	Distinguish between defining attributes (e.g., triangles are closed and three-sided) vs. non-defining attributes (e.g., color).	Recognize and draw shapes having specified attributes, such as a given number of angles or a given number of equal sides.

In Language Arts

In Kindergarten, children begin to learn the alphabet, basic features of letters, words, and sounds. These skills will enable your child to learn new words and understand simple text and books. Additionally, your child will be asked to share information in a variety of ways including speaking, writing, drawing, and working collaboratively with other children in the classroom.

Some of the activities your child will engage in during Kindergarten are:

- Naming and writing letter and matching letters to sounds
- Learning and using new words
- Reading common words such as *the, of, you, are*
- Identifying major events in a story
- Taking part in shared reading and writing projects.

Example of the progression of a concept across grades K – 2

Kindergarten	Grade One	Grade Two
Recognize common types of text (e.g., storybooks, poems, and Scripture).	Explain major differences between books that tell stories and books that give information.	Describe the overall structure of a story, including how the beginning introduces the story and the ending concludes the action.