Common Core Standards were designed to ensure that students, no matter where they live, receive a consistent high-quality education, from school to school and state to state. These standards are not intended to tell teachers how to teach, but to help them figure out the knowledge and skills their students should have, so that they can build the best lessons and environment for their classroom.

The Common Core standards have been adopted in 45 states. Standards for language arts and math will be transitioned into the curriculum this year, with full implementation and CCGPS assessment by the 2014-15 school year. There are 5 components to the English/Language Arts standards:

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking and Listening
- Language
- Media and Technology

- Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, Language, and Media and Technology.

There is no set reading list for the literature standards. Students are expected to read a range of classic and contemporary literature, and there is an emphasis on reading informational texts from a variety of subjects. Math is organized into 5 content strands: number and operations, measurement, geometry, algebra, and data analysis and probability as well as processing standards that emphasize problem solving, reasoning, representation, connections, and communication. So what does this mean for most classroom teachers?

Classroom teachers will need to rethink their scope and sequence and realign it with the new standards.

Luckily, since this involves more than just the state of Georgia, there are TONS of Common Core materials to be found online. We’d like to share some of the best ones that you can use to plan your upcoming school year, or just find out what this new curriculum involves.

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Appdates! continued...

homeschoolers. Videos are limited to 15 minutes. You need a microphone or head set, a Promethean or SmartBoard or an Ipad to get started. Go to www.screencast-o-matic.com.

Are you a social butterfly? Are you constantly checking your Facebook, Twitter, Foursquare and LinkedIn accounts? Then Hootsuite may be for you! Available as an iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch app, it allows you to track all the latest updates and stats in one place. You can schedule updates for future sending, reply to all recipients at once, and comment on your various social media accounts.

Shared by Kathy Brown, Mu Chapter

Cutting Through the Common Core continued...

...continued from page 1

Karen Neal, a DKG member, attended a recent Common Core Conference and says perhaps the best site to begin your search is www.georgiastandards.org. This website will give the frameworks per grade level. Many of the units are already up on this site. You will click on the Common Core tab, and the box on the left of the page will lead you in the direction you need to go. The unit frameworks give you lesson plans to use and show you how to incorporate the standards. Another great website is www.engageny.org. This New York website has frameworks in ELA and math. For matching reading materials to lexile levels, just check out www.lexile.com. This website has the up to date lexile ranges. The website http://commoncore.lacoe.edu/ has a variety of links to reports, webinars, and toolkits on the subject.

Unfortunately, many of the larger publishers of teaching materials have not gotten much on the Common Core into stores yet, so it’s hard to find resources in stores like SchoolBox. Member Lindsay Beck from Walker County loves the online store Teachers PayTeachers (teacherspayteachers.com.) You can find a variety of teacher-made materials (posters, checklists, labels, powerpoints, rubrics, etc.) developed for Common Core standards in different grade levels. For a small price, you can purchase and digitally download materials to save yourself the time and effort of making them yourselves. Teachersnotebook.com is another online store of teacher-created materials. If you create your own resources, you can also sign up to sell them through these sites. You also have the added benefit of knowing you’ve helped to put extra spending money into a teacher’s pocket!

Members’ Favorite Websites  By Joan Page

Keeping our students interested and challenged often means finding new websites to capture their attention. A math website called Math Magician, has timed math tests for students, in a fun format: http://www.oswego.org/ocsd-web/games/Mathmagician/cathymath.html

Another site, that uses arcade-style games for all subject areas and ages is: http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com/

This next site is great for building reading fluency. The Screen Actors’ Guild provides online streaming video programming, with members reading children’s books aloud. Each book includes accompanying lesson ideas and activities: http://www.storylineonline.net/

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Members’ Favorite Websites continued...

For teachers, the big news is the implementation of Common Core standards in math and reading. A teacher shared the following site with me:

http://www.masteryconnect.com/learn-more/for-teachers.html

The site states, “MasteryConnect makes it simple to share and discover common formative assessments and track mastery of state and Common Core standards. Built-in grading tools save teachers time.” Let me know if you try it and like it!

If you have favorite websites, either for your students, or for yourself as an educator, please send them to me at joan.page@ccboe.net. I will share the ones you send me in future issues, along with other useful websites we’ve discovered!

Communicating Effectively Through Email

Email “Net”iquette Tips

- Respond in a timely fashion—if you are contacted by email to RSVP your DKG meeting attendance, let the contact person know as soon as possible, even if you can’t attend. Within 24 to 48 hours is acceptable.
- Use business language—cutesy emoticons :) and text-talk (b4 for before, gr8 for great) are for your friends!!!! (And you don’t need multiple exclamation marks—one of my personal bad habits).
- Be clear in your subject line—don’t assume the recipient knows what your message is about or who you are. Be sure to add your name to the message. Many people hit delete if they don’t recognize the sender.
- Don’t ignore the telephone—last minute cancellations and long, drawn-out explanations of projects or information should be handled over the phone. Email and text-messaging is wonderful, but some things just need personal contact.

Have a tech question or problem? Email us at dkgtechhelpdesk@gmail.com to have your question answered. What’s your email pet peeve? We’ll share other members’ suggestions in upcoming newsletters.

Teachershare….21st Century Projects.

Do you have students in your classes that are hard to reach? Is critical thinking among your students a challenge? Do you have something that works in your classroom that you would like others to know about? Share it with us at Technically Speaking and we will be sure to get the word out. Here is an idea for a project:

VOKI Avatar Autobiographies—Voki is a free online program where students can create avatars (a personalized graphic that represents a user) and have them talk. Students can make their avatar and then write an autobiography. Another idea is to have your students read biographies and then create a Voki avatar to share their book report. You can sign up for a Voki Classroom and post the avatars there. The site www.voki.com has lesson plans for other activities and tutorials to show you how to get started. It also has 25 different languages, so if you are a language teacher you can use it to have students practice their writing and speaking skills.