January 7, 2015

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In 2010, the California State Board of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for California. Educational standards are used to delineate what all students are expected to know and be able to do in all grade levels and within subjects. CCSS are a national set of learning expectations for college and career success that were developed by teachers, parents, school administrators, and education experts. The Common Core standards replace our previous standards established in 1997 and provide a foundation for increased rigor, relevance and deeper learning.

At our schools, you may notice changes in content emphasis and a shifting of concepts within the various grade levels. For example, there is an increased emphasis on informational text in elementary school and the introduction of certain math concepts have also moved grade levels. The goal for adoption of the CCSS is that your child will be better prepared to meet the demands of college and/or the work place in the 21st century. California testing has also changed. Last year, students in grades 3-8 and grade 11 took the pilot tests for the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC). The consortium has developed new tests that measure student progress toward career and college readiness. You can learn more about the new tests and California’s participation in the SBAC at http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/sa/smarterbalanced.asp.

The CCSS standards provide a strong foundation to prepare our students for success while also providing a way for teachers to measure student progress throughout the year. If you have any questions about Common Core, please visit our district website for resources about the Common Core. http://www.conejousd.org/instruction/CurriculumAssessment/CommonCoreStateStandards.aspx.

Sincerely,

Laurie Davis
Principal