



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parents:

This school year students in grades K-2, 11-12 and Algebra II will be taught the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English language arts and mathematics. Over the last two years, governors and state commissioners from forty-eight states (including Hawaii), and two territories committed to developing a common core of state standards for proficiency in English language arts and mathematics. A variety of stakeholders including state representatives, content experts, teachers, school administrators, parents and others, participated in this voluntary, state-led effort. To date, more than forty states, including Hawaii, have adopted the common core. The standards establish clear and consistent goals for learning to prepare Hawaii's children for success in college and work.

Students in all grades will be taught the CCSS for English language arts and mathematics beginning in School Year 2014 – 2015. The staggered implementation of the CCSS, whereby some grade levels will begin before others, allows the state summative assessment system to be completely aligned with the CCSS.

Attached you will find the National Parent Teacher Association's *Parent Guides on the Common Core State Standards*. As parents, you play a pivotal role in the academic growth of your children. These guides are intended to help you understand the new standards and provide specific suggestions on what to discuss with your student and his or her teacher(s). For more information and to find a complete set of the guides as well as a web-based presentation, please visit <http://www.pta.org/4446.htm>.

Additional information about the CCSS can be found at: <http://www.corestandards.org/>. You may also watch *Viewpoints* episodes dedicated to the CCSS at: <http://www.video.k12.hi.us/viewpoints>.

Episode #4 2010-2011, *Common Core Standards - Familiarity* and Episode #7 2010-2011, *Common Core Standards Implementation* are dedicated to deeper understanding of the CCSS Initiative in Hawaii.

We look forward to much success this year. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Petra Schatz, Educational Specialist for Language Arts, or Mr. Dewey Gottlieb, Educational Specialist for Mathematics, at (808) 203-5526 or via email at petra_schatz@notes.k12.hi.us, dewey_gottlieb@notes.k12.hi.us.

Thank you for your involvement.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathryn S. Matayoshi".

Kathryn S. Matayoshi
Superintendent

KSM:do

Attachments