

JCE for Beginners



Tips & Info for New Families on All-Things Julington Creek Elementary School

What are Common Core Standards?

Lately there is a lot of buzz around school about “Common Core Standards”. What are Common Core Standards and what do parents need to know about them?



Second grade teacher, Neeti Gregg, explains, “Florida schools are adopting a Common Core strategy which focuses less on the number of items to teach each child for each year of school, and more IN-DEPTH for each learning standard. Students are being challenged to think more critically, explain WHY they have an opinion, and defend their answers. They know that they are expected to be able to say why they pick an

answer. We spend more time talking and discussing than filling out worksheets. Each child has their individual learning goals and we cater lessons to each child's ability. Those that need some remedial work receive it. Those that need challenging work receive it. ALL STUDENTS are challenged to think critically and deepen their knowledge.”

According to the [Common Core State Standards Initiative](#) website, the standards were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and other experts. *They are meant to provide teachers and parents with a common understanding of what students are expected to learn.* The standards define the knowledge and skills students should have within their K-12 education careers so that they will graduate high school ready for college coursework or workforce training programs.

In addition to Florida, 44 other states have adopted the standards. The St. Johns County School District has been gradually implementing them over the last couple of years. The district plan calls for full implementation at the start of the 2014-2015 school year. **Julington Creek Elementary School will host a “Common Core Listen & Learn” for parents and students in May. The date will be announced in the upcoming editions of the *Jaguar Journal*.** It should be an interesting & informative event. Plan to attend!

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Volume 1, Issue 3

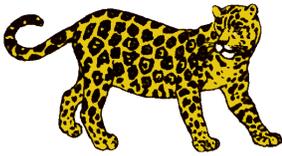
Spring 2013

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- FCAT Testing (3rd-5th graders)
- ◆ April 15th–April 19th ◆
 - April 22nd-April 26th (make-ups)
- Kindergarten & New Student Registration
- ◆ May 1st from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.

SCHOOL TOURS

Group tours will be available during May Registration. New or prospective families may also schedule a tour through Mrs. Kennedy. Please note that no tours will be given during FCAT testing.



**JULINGTON
CREEK
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

“Home of the Jaguars”

2316 Racetrack Rd.
St. Johns, FL 32259
(904) 547-7980

Mr. Michael Story
Principal

Mrs. Monique Keaton
Asst. Principal

School Hours:
8:30-2:50
8:30-1:50 Wednesdays

**JCE Annual
Variety Show**



**Thursday, May 16th
at 8:45 A.M.**

**Friday, May 17th
at 8:45 A.M.
& 7:00 P.M.**

The Inbox: Q&A

Some families come to JCE from across the bridge, while others come from across the country or across the continents! Some children come from private schools, some come from public schools. Though each family has a unique story, all share a common experience in adjusting to their exciting new school environment. Below are answers to some of the email questions I recently received:

Q. I am unsure of JCE’s policy on school absences. What should I do when my child is going to be out? Do I need to call the school to let them know?

A. If your child is out sick, you do not need to call the school. You should send a note for the teacher upon your child’s return to school. If you know the absence is likely to last for more than a few days, let his teacher know via email so she can assist you with missed classwork or other needs your family may have.

Q. My daughter is coming to JCE from a different country. She is already 6. She attended a private preschool for three years, but has never completed a Kindergarten class. Can I enroll her in 1st grade?

A. No. The State of Florida requires 6-year-olds who do not have a Kindergarten transcript to enroll in Kindergarten. For more information on transferring student requirements, refer to the Florida Dept. of Education: <http://www.fldoe.org/faq/.default.asp?Dept=107&ID=703#Q703>

Q. My son is transferring to JCE from a private school. He is a

bright child. How can I be sure he is placed in a classroom environment that challenges him?

A. If your child is a high achiever, as evidenced by his academic records and previous teachers’ recommendations, he may be placed in a gifted/blended class. Please contact our Vice Principal, Mrs. Keaton, for more information on class placement.

Q. I think my child may be gifted but her former school never tested her. She is entering 3rd grade, so she missed the 2nd grade screening test in St. Johns County. Is it still possible to have her tested?

A. The St. Johns County School District offers free gifted assessments for all enrolled students. Testing for post-second graders is typically offered in November of each school year. Parents are notified via memos & the weekly Jaguar Journal. For more information about gifted services at JCE, please feel free to contact Mrs. Keaton.

Q. My son is a 5th grader, and started at JCE in January. I filled out paperwork to become an approved volunteer at that time. In a few short months, he’ll be headed over to FCMS. Do I need to resubmit an application to become approved at his new school?

A. No. You will simply need to contact our volunteer coordinator ask her to transfer your approved status to the middle school. You will be receiving a packet of information through JCE that will explain everything you need to do to prepare for starting middle school at Fruit Cove.