



May 1, 2012

Dear Parents/Guardians:

It is with great anticipation that we look towards implementing a new set of standards, the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS), in August 2012! The Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS) were developed from the Common Core State Standards, an initiative of the National Governors' Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers, who took leadership in working to chart a course to ensure all students are better prepared for college and future careers. The Common Core Georgia Performance Standards go a long way to ensure that students in different states have the same opportunities to learn at high levels and reach towards higher standards.

The CCGPS are aligned to the highest international and national standards and have an increased emphasis on the following:

- Reading more informational and complex texts
- Writing to justify thinking and reasoning and writing for more authentic purposes
- Engaging in more problem-solving and problem-based learning
- Making more real-world, relevant connections
- Assessing learning at higher-levels

These standards inform schools of "what" to teach but leave "how" to teach in the hands of our capable teachers. Your child's classroom will be an even more engaging setting as students are provided with increased opportunities for collaboration, conversation and problem-solving.

The Cobb County School District Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Team has been working closely with school leaders & staff to prepare for the changes ahead as well as developing tools that will be of support to families. On the Cobb County School District home page, you will find a link to the Common Core Curriculum page where you will find resources to support parents, staff and students. Additionally, the Georgia Department of Education, Georgia Public Broadcasting and the National PTA websites have information that will help you to understand the changes and their benefit to students and families.

During the month of May, you can view an interview on *Inside Cobb Schools* which airs on COBB edTV (Comcast channel 24, Charter channel 97, AT&T U-verse channel 99) and is also linked to the Common Core GPS (CCGPS) website for Cobb County School District. The Common Core Curriculum link can be found on the left menu of the district's home page. We encourage you to visit this site to learn more about the Common Core implementation. We hope you find this information helpful and look forward to working with you in the coming school year.

Sincerely,

Amy Krause

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment