Dear Parent or Guardian,

You may start to notice some changes to instruction and testing in your school that will directly impact your child. It is essential that you know about these changes and what resources are available to help you support your child.

In October of 2010, Oregon adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). These Common Core Standards are a set of learning expectations for our students that will prepare them for success in college and a future career.

Teachers, parents, school administrators, and education experts developed Common Core State Standards. Oregon is one of 48 states plus U.S. territories that have adopted the CCSS. The standards were developed out of a partnership between the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association. They are not an initiative of the federal government.

These newly adopted standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn in K-12 math and language arts. While there are many similarities between the existing Oregon standards and the CCSS, you might notice changes in what content is emphasized and the grade in which the content is taught.

The purpose of adopting the CCSS is not simply to align with other states, but rather to raise the bar for learning in all grades to ensure that our students are receiving a relevant and rigorous education. The adoption of the CCSS means that your child will be better prepared to meet the demands of college and/or the workplace in the 21st century.

For additional information please go to the districts website www.centennial.k12.us.org. In addition, the National PTA has organized resources to help parents support their child. Information can be found at www.pta.org/common_core_state_standards.asp. If you have additional questions as to how this might impact your child’s education, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

School Principal