

Dear Parents/Guardians,

For the last year Charlotte Upper Elementary staff has been reviewing the Common Core State Standards and looking at which of the 40 plus standards in both reading and math will help students the most academically and beyond school. This work has yielded 12 standards in both reading and math which are referenced the most in our curriculum, MSTEP, and future grades. After determining these twelve standards, staff members dove into each one of them and talked about what mastering these standards looks like. The result were scales which will be rolled out in 2018-2019 school year. Once we understood the most important standards and what mastery looks like we used research based test questions to create pre- and post- tests which directly identified standards. Using these tests we will be able to monitor the progress of students so we can better adapt our instruction to a classroom's needs.

These driving standards measured through assessments and assignments which are used in adjust instruction based on classroom need is what we call Student Learning Objectives.

Student Learning Objectives change how each classroom approaches instruction. Now instruction will be based on student needs. We are customizing our instruction using data from our pre-tests and from assignments to meet the needs of each classroom. This does not mean some material will not be covered. It does mean that if a class scored well on addition, but low on subtraction more time will be spent on subtraction. Customizing education to meet students where they are rather than forcing everyone to go at the same pace will help shrink gaps in understanding and increase students confidence in areas where they were previously weak.

The work done to create Student Learning Objectives also means that students will have a better understanding of what skills they must master in a grade. Because assessments and assignments are all linked to those skills students will also know where their strengths and what they need to work on.

Every student is different. Every classroom has its own needs. Student Learning Objectives creates clear end-of-the-year goals for every grade, but does not require every classroom to move at the same pace to reach those goals. The pace of the classroom will be determined by the needs of the classroom and the data gathered through assessments and assignments. Every student is capable of great things. Our goal is to provide the programs and supports to allow each student's greatness to come out and shine for all to see.

Sincerely



Mark McGarry
Principal

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