

# How to Read the Parent Newsletters

The **Marking Period Newsletters** are a bridge between school and home. These informational documents will be distributed twice each marking period. The purpose of the newsletters is to communicate learning goals (big ideas), learning experiences, and to provide suggestions for support at home. The front of the document indicates critical Thinking and Academic Success Skills (TASS) that will support students in achieving the learning goals. All goals have been organized by Measurement Topics (MT). Measurement Topic proficiency will be reflected on quarterly report cards.

## Newsletter Components

MT	Learning Goals by Measurement Topic (MT) Students will be able to...
Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify the theme and summarize key details in poems and plays.</li> <li>analyze the character's or narrator's point of view and how it influences events in a poem or a play.</li> <li>examine how scenes in a play fit together to create text structure.</li> </ul> 
Language: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify how figurative language, word relationships, and word choice impact poems and plays.</li> </ul>

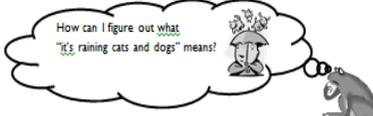
## Measurement Topics (MT)

Measurement Topics are categories of content and skills by subject area and grade-level. Each Measurement Topic contains quarterly learning goals that build toward the end of year proficiency. Learning goals increase in depth over the course of the year. What a child needs to know and be able to do becomes more complex throughout each grade.

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Language: Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify how figurative language, word relationships, and word choice impact poems and plays.</li> </ul>
Thinking and Academic Success Skills (TASS)	
	In reading, students will...
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>study elements in a play and determine criteria for skills needed to be a successful actor in a performance. (Criteria is a standard on which a decision or judgment may be based.)</li> <li>compare how different types of theatre performances (opera, musicals, middle school plays, etc.) are similar and different.</li> <li>determine and justify the theme of a story by using details from the text.</li> </ul>
Effort/Motivation/Persistence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work hard and consistently analyze visual and multimedia elements to make meaning of a poem.</li> <li>use strategies, such as visualization, to interpret the meaning of figurative language in order to understand a poem.</li> </ul> 

Newsletter Front

**Thinking and Academic Success Skills (TASS)** MCPS Curriculum 2.0 develops students' critical and creative thinking skills, as well as essential academic success skills. *Critical thinking* involves being objective and open-minded while thinking carefully about what to do or what to believe, based on evidence and reason. *Creative thinking* involves putting facts, concepts, and principles together and demonstrating a novel way of seeing or doing things. These skills are necessary to prepare students for a lifetime of learning. Specific TASS skills are identified each marking period. The skills are strategically taught through subject integration to help students achieve learning goals and prepare for the real world.

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Effort/Motivation/Persistence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work hard and consistently analyze visual and multimedia elements to make meaning of a poem.</li> <li>use strategies, such as visualization, to interpret the meaning of figurative language in order to understand a poem.</li> </ul> 

**Home Support** The back of the document shows the types of experiences your student may encounter at school to achieve the learning goals. The back also includes specific suggestions for how to support your student at home. These activities may be done as supplemental homework or as indicated by your school/teacher.

Learning Experiences by Measurement Topic (MT)	
MT	In school, your child will...
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>identify the use of structural elements of plays (e.g. cast of characters, setting, scenes, stage directions) and examine how scenes create the structure of the drama.</li> <li>summarize key details in poems, lyrics, and plays using videos and CDs.</li> <li>examine key details that are essential to understanding themes in poems.</li> </ul>
	At home, your child can...
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>read a variety of self-selected texts everynight that may include multiple versions of the same story.</li> <li>read poetry by different poets to find favorites. Use online poetry resources, including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Giggle Poetry (<a href="http://gigglepoetry.com/">http://gigglepoetry.com/</a>) to read and create poems with figurative language.</li> <li>The Poetry Archive (<a href="http://www.poetryarchive.org/">http://www.poetryarchive.org/</a>) to listen to</li> </ul> </li> </ul>