



*Park Hill School District teachers collaborated recently to align Park Hill's curriculum with the national Common Core standards. Their work will prepare us for coming changes.*

# To Prepare Students for Future, Park Hill Aligns Curriculum with Common Core

In the Park Hill School District, "building successful futures" is not just a catch phrase.

Park Hill educators work every day to prepare students to succeed at college and in their careers.

In order to prepare students to be successful in their lives after graduation, Park Hill works to make sure that the lessons taught in our classrooms are rigorous and relevant to students' futures.

For many years, Park Hill educators have fine-tuned our district curriculum.

Now, in an effort to better prepare students for the future, our teachers are working hard to make sure our district curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards.

"Common Core provides us with consistent, national standards that have the rigor and the focus on college and career readiness that we are looking for here in Park Hill," said Dr. Jennifer Corum, director of curriculum.

These standards were developed as a partnership between states, so although they do not come from the federal government, 48 states have adopted them.

As soon as the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education announced that it would adopt the Common Core standards, Park Hill got to work aligning our curriculum.

We are also providing training to teachers to prepare them for the transition. Teachers are learning about Common Core at regional meetings with other school districts and at local sessions in their own schools.

If the Board of Education approves the new, aligned curriculum in December, students will see the changes in the classroom in the 2013-2014 school year.

The curriculum will change for every grade level, from kindergarten through 12th grade, in math and English language arts. There will be some impact on science and social studies as well.

In the spring of 2015, the state assessment that Park Hill students take will cover the Common Core standards.

Dr. Jeff Klein, Park Hill's assistant superintendent for academic services, said aligning our standards with Common Core allows Park Hill to make sure that the learning in each grade level builds on the learning from the year before.

The national standards will encourage more collaboration and knowledge sharing across states, and there will be more research and development in resources to support the standards.

Along with our Future Learner Project, or FLIP (see page 1), aligning our curriculum with the Common Core will prepare students for successful futures by teaching creativity, cooperation, innovation and problem-solving.