

Dear families,

I hope you were able to be at Lisa and Katie's information meeting yesterday about the upcoming New York State tests.

Some parents asked for resources that families could use to prepare their children for the tests if they were so inclined. Katie put the following resource list together and I'm happy to share it with you.

Suggested resources, with Katie's notes:

1) readworks.org - Parents will need to sign up for an account (free) and then they will have access to grade-aligned reading passages with both multiple choice and extended response questions. Some teachers do use this in class, but there are many passages so we don't really have to worry about too much overlapping.

2) commoncoresheets.com - Some great math worksheets for kids to go over math concepts. The only problem is that they are not embedded in the context of word problems like the problems on the tests are, but so far, we have not found a free website that does this for math. It's a free option to go over common core math skills.

3) testingmom.com - Great; however, it does charge a monthly subscription fee, and we don't want to endorse a particular website. There may be other fee-based ones that are just as good.

4) The question stems - This is also a free option, but requires families to do a bit of work. They will need to create questions for a child's book or reading passage. However, it does show what questions on the test look like.

<http://kidsatthecore.com/Downloads/QuestionStemCCSSGr3.pdf>

<http://msdecordova.weebly.com/uploads/3/1/4/9/31499197/questionstemccsgr4.pdf>

<http://kidsatthecore.com/Downloads/QuestionStemCCSSGr5.pdf>

5) Barron's Core Focus Series- These books can be purchased online (Here is the Amazon link for the 3rd grade:

https://www.amazon.com/Barrons-Core-Focus-Practice-Common/dp/1438005512/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1488554979&sr=8-2&keywords=3rd+grade+test+prep

They look great and we do not use those in school. We use CARS and Ready in school.