



JEI

EDUCATION  
NEWSLETTER

November 2013  
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## The Common Core: English

In the last newsletter in October, we tried to provide some insight into the Common Core State Standards, which will affect nearly every student in the nation in math and English language arts. We thought it best to delve into this issue a bit more by looking at each subject. For this month, we will focus on the English curriculum.

Again, changes to your children's education are on the horizon. The Common Core State Standards in English will provide all students with an integrated approach to literacy, which incorporates reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will no longer be asked to read a passage and recite facts from it—they will now be required to have a deeper understanding of what they read, one that directly taps into their critical thinking and analytical skills. This is just one of the many changes that children will face as their school curriculum changes over to Common Core.

Another major change to the curriculum involves the balance of the types of texts that students

will be required to read. In elementary grades, students will read a 50/50 split of literature and informational text. As students move into middle school and high school, there will be more emphasis placed on informational text. In grades 6 through 8, students will read 55% informational text and 45% literature. In grades 9 through 12, informational text readings increase to 70%, and literature decreases to 30%.

The balance of writing genres has also changed significantly. By 4th grade, students will be writing 30% opinion, 35% informational, and 35% narrative. The emphasis on argumentative and informational writing will increase as they move into 8th through 12th grade. As a result, the amount of narrative writing is nearly cut in half as they proceed through high school. Additionally, the texts and the writing pieces will cover an array of different subjects including history, social studies, and science.

There will also be major differences in the way nonfiction

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To be held nationwide on Nov. 9!



**Have you registered for the Essay Contest yet?**

**Seating may be limited, so hurry and sign up ASAP!**

# What is your Child's Learning Style?

By Tim McCann

**W**hen I was a teacher, my goal was to get to know all of my students' learning styles within the first few weeks of each school year. It helped me to not only teach to their strengths but also improve their weaknesses. It gave me the ability to place students in small groups more efficiently, where each of the students' strengths would complement the other students' weaknesses.

Students typically have one of the following three learning styles: auditory, visual, or tactile/kinesthetic. Each of these styles differs vastly from the other, and knowing what type of learner your child is will help out as they tackle new subjects, whatever the environment.

**Auditory** learners only make up ten percent of all students, even though eighty percent of teaching is done this way. This group learns through listening and do best when learning in a lecture or read-aloud setting. Children who are auditory learners tend to be very talkative and enjoy listening to music. They often read

out loud to themselves when trying to understand a new concept. However, they may struggle when reading because they have trouble visualizing images in their mind.

**Visual** learners, who make up forty percent of all students, learn best by watching. They recall things by pulling up images from their memory. These types of students learn best by taking notes, using maps and diagrams, making lists, and drawing out ideas. They need a quiet environment for studying and learning in order for them to be able to process information correctly.

**Kinesthetic/tactile** learners are children who learn best through a hands-on approach and account for fifty percent of all students. They learn best through movement, activity, and manipulation of objects. Kinesthetic/tactile learners usually shine when it comes to sports and dance activities. These types of learners often have difficulties learning while sitting still in traditional classrooms. They seem to like doing two things at once while learning, which would be nearly impossible for visual or auditory learners.



*Tim McCann, Regional Manager  
New Jersey Headquarters*

Again, most of the teaching in classrooms is done in auditory style. So, if your child is not doing as well in school, it may be because he or she is either a visual or kinesthetic/tactile learner. In that case, one of the ways to improve performance is to strengthen their listening skills. The first step in helping your child do better in school is to find out what kind of learner your child is. You do your research, study your child, and perhaps discuss learning styles with your child's teacher. Any child can learn. It is just a matter of finding the right method for each unique individual.

## JEI FACEBOOK FAN GIVEAWAY!

“Like” JEI Learning Center’s page at  
<https://www.facebook.com/jeilearningcenter>  
 and share the post for a chance to win a  
**16GB white iPad mini** when we reach...

**1,000** 



# Briefs

## Better TV Means Better Kids

Too much TV certainly is not healthy, as it causes kids to remain inactive while they watch. Nonetheless, studies show that “turning the channel” may be a better solution than “turning it off.” The right program in moderation for the proper age group can make a difference. Healthy TV shows, such as Sesame Street or Mr. Rogers, can boost kids’ vocabulary, problem-solving skills, and even reduce anger and aggressive behavior. Kids also demonstrate higher academic capabilities, better people skills, and positive conflict resolutions as they get older.

*(www.educationnews.org, 03/2013)*

## Bilingual Children are Smarter

According to the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, introducing children to foreign languages at an early age actually enhances

and enriches a child’s mental development because it causes the brain to constantly exercise. Scientists believe it can even delay the onset of Alzheimer’s disease and other dementia later in life.

*(www.parentmagazine.com 11/2013)*



## Michigan Schools go Online in 2014

Michigan’s public school districts will be offering online courses to all K-12 students for free, starting in January 2014. As part of their regular curriculum, up to two online courses per semester are allowed, taught by Michigan-certified teachers. There is no class size limit, but the student-teacher ratios will range from 15:1 to 30:1.

*(www.educationnews.org, 10/2013)*

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texts are structured. For example, in 2nd and 3rd grades, prior to the implementation of Common Core, passages would be straightforward and simple to understand, and would state the facts in a concrete fashion. Now, using Common Core standards, a similar passage will have longer sentences with challenging constructions, and the purpose of the text will be implied, requiring a contextual interpretation.

Questions taken from these passages will be composed in new ways. Previously, questions about basic facts would be posed in a simple fashion: “What was the spacecraft called?” “Why were people across the planet watching their television screens?” “Who were the three astronauts on the spacecraft?” Now, with Common Core, questions are more in-depth and require higher-level thinking. Students will be asked questions such as the following: “What is the author trying to convey when he says, ‘These men are dressed for colder, stranger places. They walk with stiff and awkward steps...’? Use information from the text to explain your answer.” Or: “What makes this voyage an important event in history?”

The proportions of the types of reading texts and the writing genres have changed. Both the texts and comprehension questions will be much more challenging. These stark changes will create a wave of changes in schools across the United States. The updates are likely here for the long-haul, to better prepare all students for post-secondary education. It is in the best interest of parents to help their children acclimate to the Common Core Standards so that the children will be able to work through the new material in schools.

# Fast Facts

**Kids ages 6-11 watch about 4 hours of TV per day, which is 28 hours a week.**

**28 hrs./week**

**32 hrs./week**

**The average pre-schooler watches about 4.5 hours a day which totals 32 hours a week.**

**Kids who watch educational shows during the age of 3-5...**

**...read more books  
...had higher total GPAs  
...placed more value on achievement**

# JEI Essay Contest on November 9!

**JEI** will hold its first-ever essay contest on Saturday, November 9, 2013. The contest will provide JEI members and non-members alike a chance to hone their essay-writing skills for standardized tests. The contest will be held in Fremont (Northern California), Los Angeles, New Jersey, New York, and at some local centers as well. Students will have one hour to write an essay about a given topic, which will be similar to

those found on the SATs and/or college preparatory exams. There will be two topics—one for lower grades and one for upper grades. While students are competing, parents are more than welcome to attend our JEI parent seminar.

Prizes include an Apple iPad, Samsung Galaxy Tabs, and Barnes & Noble gift cards. All winners will receive custom plaques, and gift bags will be

given out to all participants just for signing up and joining the event.

Please contact your local JEI Center for more details. Spaces are limited, so be sure to sign up as soon as possible!

*For more information, please email [lahq@jeilearning.com](mailto:lahq@jeilearning.com) or visit us at [www.jeilearning.com](http://www.jeilearning.com).*

## Essay Contest Information

### Date & Time Entry Fee

**Saturday, November 9, 2013 at 9:30AM**  
\$20 for JEI members, \$30 for non-JEI members Grades 2-7

### Competition Venues

**NJ: Linwood Middle School** 25 Linwood Place, North Brunswick, NJ 08902  
**NY: Leonard's Palazzo** 555 Northern Blvd., Great Neck, NY 11021  
**SoCal: JEI Corporate Office** 4465 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90010  
**NorCal: Ohlone College** 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont, CA 94539

### To Register Parent Seminar

Please contact your local JEI Learning Center  
Scheduled during the competition

### Prizes



**Grand Prize: Apple iPad (1)**  
1st Place: Samsung Galaxy Tab (6)  
2nd Place: \$100 Barnes & Noble Giftcard (6)  
3rd Place: \$50 Barnes & Noble Giftcard (6)  
Winners to be announced on Dec. 9, 2013 at [www.jeilearning.com](http://www.jeilearning.com)

**Award plaques for all winners!**  
**Gift bags for all participants!**



[www.jeilearning.com](http://www.jeilearning.com)

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