



CURRICULUM UPDATE



MID VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT – A LEARNING COMMUNITY DEDICATED TO EXCELLENCE

AUGUST 2017

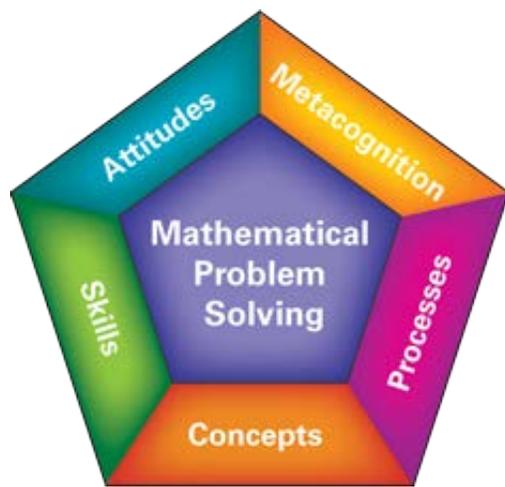
“Sesame Street” added Julia (above), a 4-year-old female muppet who has autism, to its cast as part of an expanding autism initiative.

Math in Focus (Singapore Math): Our New K – 8 Math Series

Our school district will begin implementation of a new mathematics series for grades K – 8 this fall. It is called *Math in Focus*, an American school version of *Singapore Math*.

Our goal is to transform mathematics teaching and learning in grades K – 8 so our students can develop into confident and effective problem solvers.

No textbook series is perfect, and we will have to address various implementation challenges. Although change can be difficult, we are confident this series will support our efforts to provide all our students with engaging, meaningful, and effective mathematics learning opportunities that are aligned to the standards and that promote best practices in the field.



This initiative is not about buying new books. Instead, it is focused on excellent and sustained professional development so teachers have the necessary resources, knowledge, confidence, and strategies. We have partnered with *Math Champions*, a professional development group that has helped over 100 schools through the U.S. and the world successfully implement *Math in Focus* and *Singapore Math*. One of their trainers, Beth Curran, worked with our teachers in June and July, and she will return over a dozen times to support our work with all aspects of planning, instruction, and assessment.

We will also work with the trainers to inform and support parents throughout the process. As part of the process, we will be adjusting our approaches to homework, grading, assessment, and pedagogy. This is hard but very exciting work!

Our Mathematics Textbook Adoption Committee included teachers, parents, administrators, and we consulted with multiple schools and math experts to reach our decision. We spent countless hours considering and analyzing all available information, and we thank the committee members for their leadership and professionalism. We also ask for everyone's enthusiastic support as we embark on this new journey.

Implementing New Math Series

The implementation of a new mathematics series will necessarily involve an adjustment process and a learning curve for students, teachers, and parents. As we continue to promote teaching and learning practices based on the *Standards for Mathematical Practice*, parents may find it difficult at times to support their children with the "new ways" of learning mathematics. As we challenge students to perform at even higher levels, students might have to work harder and experience some struggles through that process, but we will make every effort to provide all students with meaningful supports so they can be successful. One of our goals will be to provide parents with information and resources so they can be confident and enthusiastic partners in their children's mathematics education.

We have offered four parent workshops so far on the following dates: June 12, June 13, July 18, and July 20. We will offer additional information to parents during the school year, and we will offer another workshop in October. The workshop will be on **Wednesday, October 4, 2017 from 8:30 – 9:30 A.M.** [This workshop will offer the same information as presented in the summer.]

Would you like additional information?

If you would like access to additional information and updates, please go to the "For Parents" tab in the district website and go the "Curriculum" and "Textbook Adoption Process" sections.

http://www.mvsd.us/parents/curriculum/textbook_adoption_process