



MID VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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February 22, 2017

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to review the textbook series under consideration for adoption. Please contact me or any member of the textbook adoption committee if you have any questions.

Thank you,


Eduardo Antonetti

What is the textbook adoption process?

We currently have two textbook adoption committees analyzing our needs in the areas of K – 6 English Language Arts (ELA) and K – 8 mathematics. We are evaluating series that will promote the love of learning, support best educational practices, and are well aligned with the appropriate learning standards. Our committees include parents, administrators, and teachers from a variety of grade levels. The committees will make recommendations for adoption and implementation processes, and we hope to adopt a new K – 8 mathematics series by the fall of 2017 and a new ELA series by the fall of 2018.

What are some of the challenges associated with this process?

Although we are considering some excellent textbook series, none of them are perfect or able to fully meet all our students' needs. 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.

What can I do to support the textbook adoption process?

Please review the materials and offer your feedback. You can use the MC2 mathematics scoring sheet. Our committee welcomes your suggestions and questions. You can also review updates on the district website: http://www.mvsd.us/parents/curriculum/textbook_adoption_process

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What are the Standards for Mathematical Practice?

“The Standards for Mathematical Practice describe ways in which developing student practitioners of the discipline of mathematics increasingly ought to engage with the subject matter as they grow in mathematical maturity and expertise throughout the elementary, middle and high school years” (Common Core Standards Initiative, 2017). The standards for practice are part of but not the same as the content standards. (Please see the handout with the eight standards for practice.)

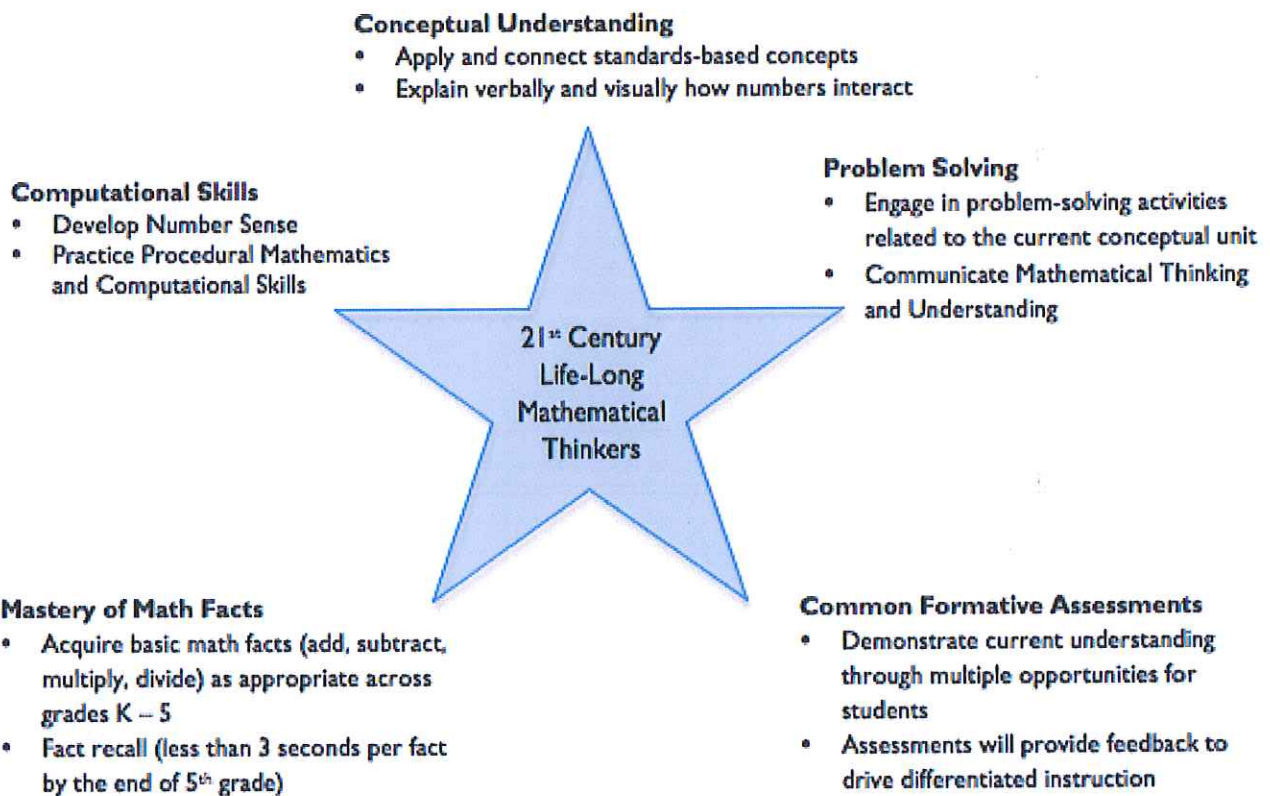
What is different about the “new” ways of teaching and learning math?


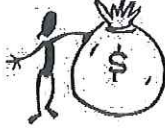

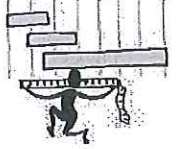

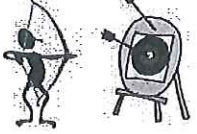
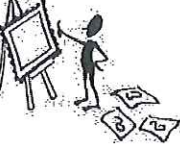

The traditional approach to mathematics for many adults tended to focus on procedural (what steps do I need to follow to solve that type of problem) as opposed to conceptual understanding (I understand how to solve the problem in different ways, how to apply those solutions to other problems, and why it matters).

“remember how” → “understanding how and why”

What is the goal of our mathematics program?

We want our students to become life-long mathematical thinkers and effective and creative problem solvers. We want them to enjoy mathematics and feel confident about their skills.



Standard for Mathematical Practice	Student Friendly Language
1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can try many times to understand and solve a math problem.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can think about the math problem in my head, first.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can make a plan, called a strategy, to solve the problem and discuss other students' strategies too.
4. Model with mathematics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can use math symbols and numbers to solve the problem.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can use math tools, pictures, drawings, and objects to solve the problem.
6. Attend to precision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can check to see if my strategy and calculations are correct.
7. Look for and make use of structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can use what I already know about math to solve the problem.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I can use a strategy that I used to solve another math problem.