



We are excited to offer a new math program at Kennett Consolidated School District! Starting August 2017 our kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will learn using the *Math in Focus* program. We will extend this program to Kennett Middle School the following year.

#### *HOW DID WE GET HERE?*

Kennett is committed to providing our students with the best education! To achieve this goal we review our curricula on an ongoing basis. Last spring, our Math Standing Committee began reviewing the current elementary math program, *Investigations*. Since student achievement is directly tied to best teaching practices, the committee identified programs that were better suited to our learners while meeting PA Core Standards. The committee then began a program review which consisted of reviewing curricular materials, surveying teachers and administrators on learner needs, attending presentations given by program representatives, visiting schools using these programs, interviewing teachers using these programs, and sharing all this information with our teachers. Teachers had the opportunity to review and experience two qualifying programs, and offer their professional insights. After an in-depth discussion on student learning and best practice the Math Standing Committee unanimously selected *Math in Focus*.

#### *WHY MATH IN FOCUS?*

The *Math in Focus* is a k-8 curriculum based on the Singapore Ministry of Education's Mathematics Framework. This framework places problem solving at the curriculum core and focuses on providing students with the necessary skills to persevere and solve routine and non-routine problems. Students focus on the how and why of math to develop conceptual understanding, calculation skills, and reasoning processes. Concepts are introduced using concrete representations and developed through 2-D visuals. The learning process is completed with abstract representations that emphasize application and mathematical reasoning. Within the program students are provided numerous opportunities to practice and develop their skills using materials that are differentiated for a variety of learners. The opportunities for differentiation, practice, and skill development embedded in the program meets the needs of all our learners, struggling to advanced.

#### *WHAT HAPPENS NOW?*

Our teachers and administrators will be trained in *Math in Focus* during a number of training sessions beginning in June 2017 and continuing throughout the 2017-18 school year. This professional development will ensure our students receive high quality instruction and that our teachers have the support they need. Parents are invited to attend our parent introduction to the program on June 7<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30PM. This will occur at Kennett Middle School directly prior to our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Family STEM Night beginning at 7PM. There will be additional parent nights, Parent University, throughout the 2017-18 school year. We realize the importance of a strong math education and believe that this program offers our students the conceptual reasoning and skill building to be strong problem solvers. Please visit the curriculum page of our website (<https://www.kcsd.org/district-information/curriculum/>) for updates and more information.