

Dear Families,

I'm writing with information about the math curriculum that we are now using at Brown and in the NPS middle schools. We started to phase in this curriculum last year, and this year we are using it in all three grades. We were pleased by the results of this curriculum last year, and look forward to using it to help all students engage in, understand, and enjoy high level mathematics.

This new curriculum is from Open Up Resources, an education nonprofit, and is authored by mathematicians at Illustrative Mathematics. It has recently earned the top rating in independent reviews by EdReports, the 'gold standard' for K–12 curriculum. Schools nationwide have been using the curriculum, and many teachers have [shared results from their classrooms](#).

The curriculum is designed to foster excitement about—and deep understanding of—math. Students participate in hands-on activities, in order to help them understand math conceptually; for example, they study equivalent ratios by mixing colored water solutions to understand why doubling and tripling produces the same shade of solution as the original. Students enjoy these lessons, and the approach helps them apply math to real-world scenarios.

Students also participate in many collaborative activities – problem-solving in pairs or teams – in order to help them express their math thinking and learn from their peers. Middle school kids love to talk, and we find that it helps to push their thinking, while also developing students' communication and collaboration skills.

Based on the feedback from our teachers who used the program during the 2017 - 2018 school year, we expect our students to thrive with this program. Because it approaches math a bit differently, the materials they bring home may sometimes look different from the worksheets they have seen in the past. This program takes an innovative approach to math learning – but rest assured, we expect that our students will be very successful with all forms of mathematics problem-solving.

- Parents can follow along at home by [accessing resources designed for parents](#) that provide a window into the concepts your child is learning in class. These online family resources:
 - describe the big ideas your child will encounter over the course of each unit
 - provide an overview of the mathematics your child is learning
 - detail what to expect as the learning deepens
 - offer questions you can use at home to promote conversation around the math

We hope these resources will help you stay connected with your child's learning and reinforce the skills students are learning in math class at home.

We look forward to a successful year for your child in math with this curriculum. If you have questions about it, please contact me or your child's math teacher.

Thank you,

John