

19 October 2015

Dear Charlotte Public Families,

As many of you know, Michigan adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in 2010. Since that time, we have focused on learning about the CCSS framework so that we are able to determine the curricula and lesson plans that will prepare students for career and college readiness.

Last year, with the support of the Ingham Intermediate School District (IISD) Charlotte Public Schools teachers and administrators joined with other districts from Ingham County in a review of CCSS-aligned mathematics programs. A major goal of this review was to identify a core K-12 mathematics program that aligns with both state standards and “best practice” research-based instructional strategies. After a thorough review process was completed, a recommendation was made for the *Go Math* curriculum. Charlotte Public Schools, along with other Ingham County districts, entered into a consortium purchase of *Go Math* for grades K-12. This purchase has provided us with our first fully-aligned CCSS math curriculum.

As we embark on our first year of implementing the new math program, we expect there to be a period of adjustment for students, teachers and families. The new standards have an increased rigor and this is being experienced with the *Go Math* program. This rigor will be particularly felt at the upper grades where older students have already had 3-5 years of non-CCSS aligned material. **Rigor refers to deep, authentic command of mathematical concepts.** It does not mean making math harder or introducing topics at earlier grades. In order to support students with a new level of rigor in math instruction, the standards call for the following:

- 1. Conceptual understanding of key concepts** - Students are expected to approach math from a number of perspectives, not just learn it as a set of rote procedures.
- 2. Procedural skill and fluency** – Students are expected to practice core functions for speed and accuracy to support their work with more complex concepts and procedures.
- 3. Application** – Students must be able to use math flexibly for a variety of problem-solving contexts.

Some of the things Charlotte teachers are doing to support their work with the new math curriculum are:

- Engaging in on-going professional development through our staff meeting time, mandatory and voluntary collaborative meetings, district provided professional development in-service time
- Working weekly with our K-12 Math Data and Instructional Technology Specialist

- Attending trainings hosted by the Ingham ISD to learn with and from other teachers around the county who are also implementing *Go Math*
- Scheduling weekly meetings with grade-level colleagues for team math planning and strategy sharing

In addition to supporting our teachers, we are also committed to assisting Charlotte Public Schools families. We appreciate how involved our families are with encouraging math learning at home. You can count on us to:

- Provide regular updates about the learning targets being addressed during math instruction
- Provide homework that is focused on additional practice of classroom learning
- Share information regarding assessments and student progress
- Keep you apprised of resources that can assist you with understanding how math concepts and skills are being presented at school

One of the most powerful resources we would like you to be aware of is your child's personal login to their **Think Central** account. Earlier this year, teachers sent home login information with students. If you have misplaced this information, please contact your child's teacher and they will be happy to reprint it for you.

Once you have logged into your child's account, go the tab labeled **My Library**. Within that tab you will find links for the **Interactive Student Edition** as well as **Math on the Spot Videos**. Both of these resources provide valuable support and information for students and parents when working on math at home.

Warm Regards,

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