Dear First Grade Families,

**Welcome back to school!**

This year we are using Bridges in Mathematics, a K–5 math program that will help us meet the new standards and make math meaningful and exciting. In first grade, students focus on addition and subtraction, place value, and shapes. Throughout the year they:

* ❚Add and subtract with numbers to 20, including with story problems
* ❚Become fluent with addition and subtraction facts to 10
* ❚Count to 120 and learn about place value (ones, tens, hundreds)
* ❚Identify, sort, and draw shapes
* ❚Fit shapes together to make other shapes, solve puzzles, and talk about fractions  When you are helping your child, the math might sometimes seem unfamiliar or different than you remember, but there are many ways you can help!
* ❚Invite your child to talk about the math by asking questions like, “Did you do a problem like this at school? How did you think about it?”
* ❚Focus on the pictures. Bridges uses visual models to make the mathematics accessible to all learners. Talking about the pictures is a great way to get started. Ask questions like, “What do you notice about this picture? Where do you see the numbers in this picture? Can we use the picture to help solve the problem?”  5 = \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ + \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* ❚Get more information and ideas about how to help your child by visiting this website for families: www.mathlearningcenter.org/families  By being open to learning and talking with your child, you can help your child develop strong skills and a love of math.

           

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[www.mathlearningcenter.org](http://www.mathlearningcenter.org)

How Will My Child Learn Math This Year?

Your child’s classroom will use Bridges in Mathematics second edition, a comprehensive curriculum for grades K–5. Bridges is a rigorous program designed to address the new math standards in a way that’s enjoyable and accessible to all learners.

The curriculum focuses on developing in students a deep understanding of math concepts, proficiency with key skills, and the ability to solve new and complex problems. Learning activities tap into the intelligence and strengths all students have by presenting mathematically powerful material alive with language, pictures, and movement.

Students in a Bridges classroom talk about math, describe observations, explain methods, and ask questions. They are encouraged to find multiple ways to solve problems and show different ways of thinking. This is a vital way to help students build more flexible and efficient ways to solve increasingly complex problems. Hands-on activities engage them in exploring, developing, testing, discussing, and applying mathematical concepts.

How Is the Program Structured?

Bridges features a combination of whole-group, small- group, and independent activities that are problem centered.

Problems & Investigations

Problems & Investigations often begin with a problem posed to the whole class. Students think and work independently or talk in pairs before sharing and comparing strategies and solutions as a whole class. The teacher monitors and guides the class discussion to make sure that students understand important mathematical concepts.

Work Places

Work Places are engaging math exploration activities that reinforce key skills. The teacher observes and interacts to address students’ need for support and enrichment.

Number Corner

Number Corner is a skill-building program that revolves around the classroom calendar and gives student an active role. They receive daily practice as well as steady encounters with broader mathematical concepts.

Homework

At times, Home Connections assignments may be sent home. Your child may bring home math games or activities for you to enjoy together, but the main role for parents is not to teach but to guide your student and take an interest in their work. We plan to communicate about math concepts the class is currently focused on and suggest specific ways you may support your child.

How can families help?

Visit the Support for Families page on the Math Learning Center website, where you will find:

Unit overviews that explain what your child will be learning

Tips for helping your child with homework

Links to more information about each grade level of Bridges

Links to additional resources, including books and free online games

Support for Families

mathlearningcenter.org/families