

Hello Parents/Guardians/Community Members,

I'm writing both to update you and to invite you to a conversation about our current mathematics program for kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grades. We have been using Investigations 2<sup>nd</sup> edition for the last 10 years, along with some intervention supports and enrichment materials. I've held many math events over the years to help adults understand the mathematics teaching and learning at Shutesbury. One thing is clear -- there has been much research done since we were all in school and there are now many new understandings that help to inform us how to best teach and learn mathematics. This research, along with strong professional learning experiences, informs our curriculum choices, pedagogical decisions and how to best support student learning.

A committee of classroom teachers has been formed to review our current k-5 math curriculum. We used our state frameworks to guide our work. The frameworks have two kinds of important standards: content and practice. The "content" standards describe *what* content students engage in at each grade level, helping us understand how the mathematics builds from year to year as a progression of ideas, while the "practice" standards describe *how* students interact with mathematics and what a mathematics classroom should look and sound like. The content standards are specific to each grade level whereas the practice standards are the exact same from early childhood to high school! Here is the list of practices we are trying to accomplish every day in our mathematics classrooms:

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

For an annotated, more detailed description of what each practice means go to:

<http://commoncoretools.me/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Elaborations.pdf>

Our committee has decided to continue with an updated version of our current curriculum resource, *Investigations*. We'd like the opportunity to share more of our thinking with any parents/guardians/community members who are interested. We plan to be at the **PTO meeting June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM** at the school to hear your questions and have an exchange of ideas. If you can't make it to the PTO meeting and have thoughts or questions you'd like to share, please let me know! You can reach me at [wagnerp@shutesburyschool.org](mailto:wagnerp@shutesburyschool.org).

I look forward to seeing and hearing from you!

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