



Elementary Family Math Update

September 2021

Dear Richards Elementary School Families,

On June 2, 2021, the Whitefish Bay School Board approved the Math Curriculum Renewal and Design report, which contained some revisions to our current math program. The full report can be accessed [here](#). The purpose of this letter is to provide families with additional information regarding the 2021-2022 school year and math instruction.

When thinking about last year and the overall shifts in the learning environment for students, we needed to consider how to best move forward in ways that make sense to ensure a smooth and supportive transition for all students. To be responsive to the different learning environments provided to students last year, teachers worked in all grade levels and courses to modify their lesson plans and curriculum to focus on the most essential content. Moving forward, we know that our schools play a critical role in the recovery of children and families that have been impacted by the pandemic in various ways. It is our goal to continue to meet the academic, social, and emotional needs of all children in our school environment.

With the lens of various learning experiences from last year, we are being very cautious about major curriculum changes during the 2021-22 school year. As a result, Illustrative Mathematics, approved for implementation K5-Algebra 2, will be piloted in many elementary classrooms during the 2021-22 school year. Full implementation will take place during the 2022-23 school year. This will be the first time that our district is adopting the same kindergarten to high school core resource. Illustrative Mathematics is described as:

A problem-based curriculum in which students spend most of their time in class working on carefully crafted and sequenced problems. Teachers help students understand the problems, ask questions to push their thinking, and orchestrate discussions to be sure that the mathematical takeaways are clear. Learners gain a rich and lasting understanding of mathematical concepts and procedures and experience applying this knowledge to new situations. Students frequently collaborate with their classmates—they talk about math, listen to each other's ideas, justify their thinking, and critique the reasoning of others. (Illustrative Math Website, 2021)

Additional information on Illustrative Mathematics can be found [here](#).

During the 2021-2022 school year, we will be highly focused on being flexible and responsive to all student needs. We will continue to focus on teaching to the state standards in math regardless of the resources we are utilizing. We ask our families for continued flexibility during this time of transition. Please contact the building principal or your building math coach with any questions or concerns.

Have a wonderful start to the 2021-2022 school year.

Sincerely,

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