

## Introducing *Kindergarten Everyday Mathematics*



Dear Families,

Welcome to *Kindergarten Everyday Mathematics*, a program created by the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project. This program is based on research and experience that shows that young children are capable of far more mathematics learning in Kindergarten than was previously believed, provided that the content is presented and explored in age-appropriate ways.

Over the course of the year, your child will do many hands-on activities related to a range of mathematical topics, including counting, numeration, measurement, geometry, patterns, sorting, data collecting, and calculator use. Classroom routines such as keeping track of the days of school, helping with attendance, and observing and graphing weather and temperature give children real-life opportunities to develop and refine mathematics skills and become “math thinkers.” Periodically, you will receive “Home Links” which suggest ways to help your child by doing mathematics activities at home.

The playful mathematics activities that make up *Kindergarten Everyday Mathematics* are meaningful and productive and are designed to help children build a solid understanding of mathematical skills and concepts. Research has shown that children have more success with written and symbolic mathematics in later grades if they have a Kindergarten experience that builds a strong foundation based on experience and understanding.

*Everyday Mathematics* is a Kindergarten through Grade 6 curriculum. Content in the early grades begins with concrete experiences. Topics, concepts, and skills are revisited in varied ways and contexts over time, integrating new learning with previous knowledge and experiences. Children will revisit and build upon skills and concepts throughout the Kindergarten year. They will continue to develop their understanding of topics that they encounter in Kindergarten as they move through later grades.

As children participate in *Kindergarten Everyday Mathematics* activities, they will find that mathematics is useful, enjoyable, varied, and meaningful. Just as telling stories and reading books to children helps foster a love of reading, your involvement in your child’s ongoing mathematics experiences will help him or her develop lasting excitement, confidence, and competence in math!

