

Everyday Math Comes to Holy Family

Holy Family School will adopt *Everyday Mathematics* as their new kindergarten through 6th grade math curriculum this coming school year. *Everyday Mathematics* is a comprehensive mathematics curriculum developed by the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project. It is scientifically research-based and proven to build students' mathematical knowledge from the basics to higher-order thinking and critical problem solving.

One of the major differences in the *Everyday Mathematics* Curriculum and the traditional curriculum is the instruction of a variety of different algorithms or methods of completing basic operations in arithmetic. For decades, all American school children have been taught one standard procedure for each of the four basic operations. These "standard" algorithms, like the regrouping ("borrowing") algorithm for multi-digit subtraction and the long division algorithm, are not the only way to perform these operations. There are many alternative algorithms taught in other countries. Compared to the standard U.S. algorithms, many of these alternative algorithms are more efficient and easier to learn.

Research has shown that teaching the standard U.S. algorithms fails with large numbers of children, and alternative algorithms are often easier for children to understand and learn. For this reason, *Everyday Mathematics* introduces children to a variety of alternative algorithms in addition to the customary algorithms and allows the child to use and choose the method that they find works best. A few examples follow:

Partial-Sums Algorithm

	268
	+ 483

1. Add 100s	600
2. Add 10s	140
3. Add 1s	11
4. Add partial sums	-----
	751

Add-Up Algorithm

932	
-356	

356	+ 4
360	← + 40
400	← + 500
900	← + 32
932	

576	

A Division Algorithm

12	158	10
	120	

	38	3
	36	

	2	13

Each *Everyday Mathematics* lesson includes time for whole-group instruction as well as small group, partner, or individual activities. These activities balance teacher-directed instruction with opportunities for open-ended, hands-on explorations, and on-going practice.

The staff at Holy Family is very excited about our new curriculum. We feel *Everyday Mathematics* will improve the math skills of our students and allow them opportunities to achieve at a greater level in math.