Hello Everyone,

The math department of CEC Middle School would like to take a few moments to outline a change in our curriculum beginning this semester. First however, we sincerely hope that this letter finds you and your family healthy, safe, and relaxed. We know these are unprecedented times, and all things safety and health related should be a priority in our lives.

As mentioned above, CECFC Middle School is adopting a new math curriculum: College Preparatory Math (CPM). CPM math is a curriculum that is based on three research-supported principles:

1. Students should engage in problem-based lessons structured around a core idea
2. Guided by a knowledgeable teacher, students should interact in groups to foster mathematical discourse
3. Practice with concepts and procedures should be spaced over time; that is, mastery comes over time

Many students may notice a philosophical change in a CPM classroom versus their previous experiences. Specifically (as outlined in principle #2), a CPM classroom is strongly driven by students interacting with one another as the primary mechanism for learning. In this environment, teachers relinquish a portion of the learning (typically reserved for traditional lectures) to students for discovery and collaborative learning. The role of the teacher is to guide learning rather than present concepts.

A second change from a traditional math classroom is the philosophy of spaced learning. Rather than presenting concepts in isolation, a CPM classroom builds on knowledge over time and through varied (yet targeted) skill development. To this end, students are not expected to master concepts as they are presented, but rather build a deeper understanding by combining varied concepts to solve complex problems. For this reason, it is advisable for students to progress through the curriculum sequentially, beginning with Course 1 (Math 030) in 6th grade and culminating with Course 3 (Math 075) in 8th grade. This also aligns with, and prepares students for, the CPM High School Curriculum.

Although students and families will notice several fundamental changes in math through the CPM curriculum, an enduring constant is the dedication and desire of CEC to meet the needs of our math students and prepare them for success as they move through their academic career. We are excited about this new curriculum and look forward to its implementation this Fall.

Sincerely,

CEC Middle School Math Department