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Dear Families of Elementary Students,

Welcome to the start of a new academic year. It is always fun to walk around the schools at the beginning of September and to see the enthusiasm and excitement of the students.

The teachers and administrators in the district are also excited this year about our new elementary mathematics program. We waited patiently for several years for publishers to align their elementary math programs to the *Curriculum Frameworks for Mathematics* released in 2011. Finally, we felt that there were enough new and substantially revised programs to warrant a program search. For the past two years, a committee made up of educators representing each school and specialist area analyzed and assessed all recently released programs. After a thorough, comprehensive process, we are pleased to report that the committee unanimously chose to adopt *Investigations3*, published by Pearson Education.

Investigations3 is a comprehensive elementary mathematics program tightly aligned to the standards defined in the Frameworks. The program focuses on developing students' ability to reason and make sense of mathematics, leading to strong conceptual understanding of foundational mathematical ideas and fluency with mathematical operations. It includes hands-on and online games and activities designed to support the development of skills and strategies at each grade level.

This academic year we are implementing *Investigations3* in the third and fourth grade. The teachers received initial training in the spring and will participate in additional workshops throughout the year. In September of 2018, we will implement the program in several more grades with the goal of fully transitioning kindergarten through fifth grade by the fall of 2019.

Families of third and fourth graders will receive more information from classroom teachers at Back to School night in addition to consistent communication throughout the year related to each unit of study. Principals and teachers are working together with the math coaches in each building to ensure a smooth transition to the new program for students. We are very excited about *Investigations3* and the role it will play in supporting the development of strong mathematical thinkers at the elementary level.

Wishing you all a happy and successful academic year.

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