

November, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

We have adopted an exciting new mathematics program in Grades K-5 this year in Stoneham. *Everyday Mathematics* is based on extensive research about how children learn mathematics. Throughout the year, there is repeated exposure to concepts and skills that build on each other. Although students will continue to learn the same concepts and skills they have always learned during their elementary schooling, the time frames are sometimes different with this new program. As a result, our current report cards may not give a true picture of your child's learning. We have made the following changes in our parent reporting procedures in mathematics for this year:

If your child is in **kindergarten, first grade or second grade**, you may notice skills that were formerly assessed during the first trimester are now being assessed later in the year and vice versa. Although the sequencing of the learning has changed, the overall content has not and you will find that your child has been evaluated in each area by the end of the year.

Teachers of students in **Gr. 3, 4, and 5** will use a different reporting system in an effort to provide you with an accurate accounting of your child's progress in mathematics during this transition year. The assessment key follows:

**Grades 3-5**

PROFICIENT	<b>P</b>	Student demonstrates thorough understanding of material. Student can apply concepts and knowledge to different and new problems/situations in addition to those presented in class.
SATISFACTORY	<b>S</b>	Student demonstrates basic understanding of material. Student applies concepts and knowledge to problems/situations that are similar to those presented in class.
NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	<b>NI</b>	Student demonstrates some understanding of material. Student has conceptual or knowledge gaps. Student has some difficulty applying concepts and knowledge to problems/situations that are similar to those presented in class.

The P, S, or NI key above will be used to evaluate the following skills:

- Knows number facts
- Understands computational process
- Understands new concepts presented
- Applies skills and concepts
- Uses problem-solving strategies

*Effort will continue to be graded using P (Proficient), S (Satisfactory), IN (Inconsistent), or NI (Needs Improvement) ratings as in the past.*

Thank you for your patience during this important transition year!