

# Highlighted Points from the Avoca Math Night

## I. Talking Points for Parents

A. Goals of our Pearson Program (Combines Investigations and Envision materials)

1. Focus on computational fluency with whole numbers
2. Make connections among different areas of math
3. Engage the range of learners in understanding mathematics
4. Help students learn that they can be mathematical thinkers
5. Emphasize reasoning about mathematical ideas

*Research indicates that a strong foundation in number sense and reasoning skills in the elementary grades will better prepare students for advanced levels in math.*

B. Things You May Observe in Your Child's Math Classroom

1. Students use concrete objects as a natural part of instruction.
2. Students work fewer computations, but more problems that require higher-order thinking.
3. Students reinforce mental mathematics daily.
4. Students learn their math facts through repeated work in games and activities.
5. Students are asked to justify and explain their thinking.

*Students are always given a real-world context for math problems.*

C. Family Letters

1. Show what the math looks like that the children are doing
2. Suggest related activities that families can do together

D. Student Activity Book

1. Daily Practice Pages used for both class work and homework
2. Number games, problems to solve, facts to practice

E. Student Math Handbook

1. Highlights the major math words and ideas
2. Explains how to play the games

#### F. Homework

1. Practices work done in class that day or reviews work from earlier units
2. Often requires students to show their work

#### F. Ways to Help at Home

1. Ask your child questions like...
  - a. What is the problem asking you to do?
  - b. Would drawing a picture help?
  - c. How did you find your answer?
  - d. Is there another way to find the answer?
2. Show your child how math is used in their everyday lives

## II. A Great Question from the Evening

Some of our parents noticed that fourth graders have fourth grade materials and fifth graders have fifth grade materials, a difference from prior years when students were placed in materials a year above grade level.

*That is true that we are now using on-grade level materials with our students. While there are many reasons behind making this change, the main reason is that our new math program is balanced with concepts and skills. The conceptual piece is challenging our students to higher levels of mathematical thinking, making it more appropriate for our students to use on-grade level materials.*

## III. Avoca School District #37 Math Mission Statement

**Our mission is to foster enthusiasm for mathematical exploration and to deepen students' conceptual understanding through differentiated, challenging, and appropriately paced instruction.**