A Union of Professionals
Common Core
State Standards

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for mathematics are shifting math instruction toward a curriculum that is more rigorous, focused, and coherent. This will help our students become better prepared to compete, not only with their American peers in the next state, but in the new global economy with students around the world. Expectations in mathematics now go beyond a student's ability to solve a set of problems. These expectations now include critical thinking and problem solving, communication, modeling, and the understanding of different perspectives.

Changes in Student Work

Middle school mathematics will extend the strong foundational knowledge and deep conceptual understanding developed in elementary school to new topics. Students will be expected to apply their mathematical knowledge in other content areas, such as science and social studies, and to real-world situations.

This letter will inform you of the major content seventh-graders will study.

Seventh-Grade Mathematics Content

- **Analyzing proportional relationships**: One way students will do this is by showing information in graphs. Students will distinguish proportional relationships from other kinds of mathematical relationships. For example, buying 10 times as many items will cost you 10 times as much; that is a proportional relationship. But if John is 7 years old and Aaron is 14, when John is 14 (twice as old as he is now) Aaron will not be 28 or twice as old as he is now. This is NOT a proportional situation!

- **Solving percent problems:** (e.g., calculating tax on an item; calculating tip in a restaurant; cost of an item on sale if the discount is 40% or 60%; the score needed on a test if a student has an average of 60 percent and wants to earn a passing grade).

- **Solving word problems that use whole numbers, fractions, and decimals:** For example, a student making $15 per hour receives a 10% raise to earn an additional $\frac{1}{10}$ of his salary, or $1.50 more an hour. His new salary is $16.50 per hour.

- **Solving equations** such as $\frac{1}{2}(x - 3) = \frac{3}{4}$ quickly and accurately by the end of the year, and writing equations of this kind to solve word problems.

- Solving problems involving **scale drawings** (maps work well for this).

- Using **statistics** to draw inferences and make comparisons (e.g., deciding which candidate is likely to win an election based on a survey).

If you have questions throughout the year about the mathematics we are studying or your child's progress, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Together we will work toward the success of your student.

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Grade 7 Teacher