

Dear Parents,

This year Mrs. McCue, the gifted intervention specialist, and I will use Flexible Grouping as a tool to differentiate math instruction. It is designed to streamline grade-level curriculum and targets areas of content each student already knows as well as areas on which each needs to focus. Flexible grouping is a three-step process:

1. Assessing what each student already knows
2. Planning what each student needs to learn
3. Giving each student meaningful activities that will help to teach, extend, and enrich their understanding

Before we begin each math unit, a pretest will be administered to each student. The results of this test will determine the most appropriate placement for each student during that unit of study. The students will then be grouped accordingly for instruction within the self-contained classroom. Placements include:

- Extension – For students who demonstrate mastery of unit concepts and skills
- Concept Mastery – For students who demonstrate strength in a majority of skills with a general understanding of unit concepts
- Skill Development– For students who demonstrate weakness in a majority of unit skills and concepts

Students will receive a placement that best defines their levels of understanding and skill. Students will be grouped for each unit based on pre-assessment and prior knowledge. Groups will be flexible and will no doubt change throughout the year. At the beginning of each unit of study, you will be notified as to your child's placement in class.

Research suggests the benefits of flexible grouping are many. It addresses the needs of each individual learner, encourages independence in learning, and increases motivation to learn. We are excited to have the opportunity to work with your child using this instructional strategy through our co-teaching. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

Mrs. Lori Dreyer

&

Mrs. Lesley McCue