Key Points about *Think Math!* to Emphasize during Open House

Overview
- Think Math is a comprehensive mathematics program that provides high quality mathematics instruction to all children.
- TM emphasizes developing important mathematical ideas, skills, & methods by blending a deep conceptual understanding with computational fluency.
- Background:
  - We are in Year 5 of implementation. TM is implemented in all elementary schools.
  - TM is a research-based program, which was funded through the National Science Foundation & was developed by the EDC in Newton, MA.

Mathematical Content
- To address the standards, TM builds upon students’ conceptual & procedural understanding in each of the following mathematical domains every year:
  - Operations and Algebraic Thinking
  - Counting and Cardinality (Kindergarten)
  - Number and Operation in Base 10
  - Number and Operations - Fractions
  - Geometry
  - Measurement and Data

- TM builds conceptual understanding by focusing on *process*
  - Problem Solving
  - Communication
  - Representation
  - Reasoning & Proof
  - Connections

- Think Math embeds the Standards for Mathematical Practice (part of the 2011 Massachusetts Framework for Mathematics/Common Core State Standards) in lessons. Therefore, students are often -
  - Making sense of problems & persevering in solving them.
  - Reasoning abstractly and quantitatively.
  - Constructing viable arguments and critiquing the reasoning of others.
  - Modeling with mathematics.
  - Using appropriate tools strategically.
  - Attending to precision.
  - Looking for and making use of structure.
  - Expressing regularity in repeated reasoning.
What Can You Expect to Hear/See at Home?

- **Home/School Connection Letters**
  - These letters are sent home at the start of each new chapter. They explain the objectives of the chapter, as well as provide activities that parents can do at home to support. Encourage your parents to read & do a few of the activities at home with their child.

- **LAB Book Pages**
  - Remind parents that their student may come home with LAB pages that are incomplete. This is typical and OKAY. All students learn at their own pace & they have been doing additional activities to complement the lesson that day.
  - Encourage parents to look at the LAB pages sent home to learn more about what is being taught in that day’s lesson. This can be another means of communication with parents.

- **Headline Stories**
  - Encourage parents to ask their student about the Headline Story. These stories are open invitations that are done each day. You may want to show parents some samples that you have completed with the students.

- **Skill, Practice, Review**
  - Encourage parents to ask their student about the SPR of the day/week & try doing these at home too!

- Finally, remind parents that they **might not see the algorithms that they were used to learning right away in TM**. TM develops deep conceptual understanding of mathematics, which will eventually lead to algorithms. This is a shift from the way we learned mathematics to how we are teaching it today.

We hope that you find this resource helpful for you to use to discuss Think Math with your families during Open House!

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