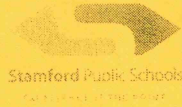


Newfield Elementary School

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February 27th, 2009

Dear Newfield Grade Three and Grade Four Families:

This year the Stamford Public Schools District has initiated a new math program, Everyday Math, in grades 3 and 4. I am happy to report that the program has been readily and enthusiastically accepted at Newfield School by teachers and students alike and that grades 3 and 4 are now in sync with K, grade 1 and grade 2 in their math instruction. Stamford Public Schools plans to implement EM in grade 5 at the start of the coming school year.

When the program was piloted in grades K, 1 and 2, classes were not regrouped and there was heterogeneous instruction for all students. The teachers in these pilot grades attribute much of the success of the implementation to the fact that they were instructing their original homerooms.

Grades 3 and 4 are now coming into their 6th month of implementation and the administration and teachers concur that grouping is a deterrent to full implementation of the EM program. With the end of the marking period imminent, the decision has been made to end grouped instruction and to begin homeroom instruction with our grade 3 and 4 students for the last quarter of the school year.

Beginning this Monday, March 2nd, this decision will result in teachers instructing their homerooms for math, thereby giving the teachers and students more time to fully implement the EM program. Another benefit to the switch in grouping will be to prepare the students for this type of heterogeneous instruction in the fall, in grade 3 and 4. An additional purpose is to prepare student entering grade 5 in the fall, as they will not regroup next year as decided by the teachers themselves in discussions supported by the administration.

Report card grades will be given for the March report card by your child's math teacher, and the final grade in June will be given by the homeroom teacher.

Please discuss this change with your students over the weekend and if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to bring them to my attention.

Sincerely,

Miriam Arango