Math in Focus
Singapore Math
by Marshall Cavendish

Dear Family,

Welcome to a new school year of making connections in math with *Math in Focus: Singapore Math by Marshall Cavendish. Math in Focus* is the world-class mathematics curriculum from Singapore adapted for U.S. classrooms.

In class your student will learn math concepts presented in an engaging format and practice them to develop deep understanding. Your student will also work with his or her classmates to solve problems, participate in learning activities and games, and discuss their results.

Your student will be assigned exercises to work on in class or at home. Assignments will include:

- **Practice** problems to help reinforce the math concepts and skills of the lesson

- **Brain @ Work** problems which will broaden your student's thinking skills and extend their understanding

Math in Focus addresses topics in greater depth at each grade. Here are some of the topics your student will focus on this year:

- building problem-solving skills and strategies

- comparing and ordering positive and negative numbers

- practicing operations with positive numbers, fractions, mixed numbers, and decimals

- using ratios, rates, and percents

- simplifying algebraic expressions, solving equations and inequalities, using coordinates to create graphs, writing linear equations, and using tables and graphs to represent equations

- finding the areas of polygons and circles, finding perimeter and circumference, and finding the surface area and volume of three-dimensional shapes

- applying statistical reasoning to data sets, and finding the mean, the median, and the mode of data sets
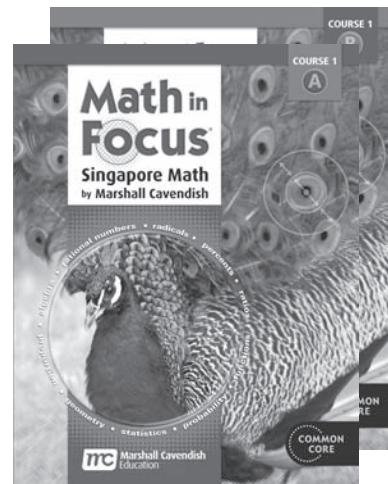
You can help your student gain confidence as well as communication abilities in mathematics by practicing new skills at home. Throughout the year, I will send home letters that will help you understand what your student is learning at school.

You can encourage your student's efforts by taking advantage of opportunities to use math in everyday situations.

While reading newspapers and magazines, invite your student to:

- find examples of fractions, mixed numbers, decimals, percents, and negative numbers

- read graphs and discuss how they display information, or what coordinates on the graphs represent

- look for the word "average" and decide what it means in the context of the article

At home or at a store, challenge your student to:

- determine unit rates for the prices of different brands or sizes of the same item

- create algebraic expressions to represent numbers such as the average price of your purchases

- find volumes of items listed on the product labels, and estimate the surface area of boxes or cans

While traveling by car or bus, ask your student to:

- find the ratio of how far you have traveled to the total length of your trip

- estimate your rate of travel

- identify different polygons and circles, and, if possible, estimate their areas

I look forward to working with you and your student this year. Please contact me if you have any questions about the program or about your student's progress.