

Dear Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grade Families,

Welcome to the start of a new school year! My name is Mary Ann Parkes and I will be your child's mathematics teacher this school year. Our math class will be called Math Lab, as we will be experimenting with various math concepts and problem solving strategies. Beech Hill is entering its second year of a school-wide implementation of the curriculum, *Math in Focus: Singapore Math*, to develop consistency throughout the grade-levels and to better meet the needs of our school community. The curriculum focuses on students developing an understanding of the 'why' behind the formulas. Students will transition from concrete (hands-on) examples to pictorial representations (use of visual models) to abstract notations (the use of symbols). A welcome letter detailing components of the program as described by the company is attached to this letter along with an overview of the "Big Ideas" covered in each chapter in the course.

As we continue the transition to a new curriculum program, your child may express frustration and you may feel you are unfamiliar with the content. There will be resources available on my website for parents providing mathematical background knowledge about the content and students will have electronic access to their textbook.

I believe that a connection between home and school is essential for every child's success. I want to keep you as connected as possible to what is going on at school. Please take a look at the class website listed below for homework calendars and class materials. I'd like the connection to work both ways. If you feel that there are any changes you've noticed in the child at home, or anything at all that you feel may be influencing your child in a positive or negative way, it is helpful for me to know. I hope to have open lines of communication between myself and you. If you ever have any concerns, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to a productive year working with you and your child.

Sincerely,

Ms. Mary Ann Parkes

Grades 6-8 Math Lab teacher

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