

Things you will see in every Little Harbour math classroom

- multiple exposures to concepts and skills providing frequent opportunities for review and practice
- multiple approaches for representing and solving problems
- connection of mathematics to real world situations
- individual, partner and small group activities that make it possible for teachers to provide individualized feedback and assistance
- a learning environment that encourages risk taking and respects multiple problem solving strategies
- engaging open-ended activities that can be customized to meet the needs of students with a range of abilities
- lessons modified to meet each child's specific strengths and needs



Additional Resources

Everyday Math

<http://everydaymath.uchicago.edu/>

Homework Help

<http://www.math.com/homeworkhelp/EverydayMath.html>

Virtual Manipulatives

<http://matti.usu.edu/nlvm/nav/vlibrary.html>

Math Games

<http://www.dositey.com/>

British site with math games

<http://www.mathsyear2000.org/>

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Elementary page

<http://www.nctm.org/elementary/index.asp>

Results of International Math and Science Study

<http://www.nces.ed.gov/timss>



Little Harbour School
Portsmouth, NH

Learning Mathematics at Little Harbour School



Little Harbour School's math program strives to prepare all students for future academic success and to help all students achieve mathematical literacy by engaging our students in challenging and meaningful mathematical activities.

Little Harbour School
Teaching & Learning Team

Math Curriculum at Little Harbour School



The centerpiece of math curriculum at LHS is the Everyday Math program which was implemented by LHS in 2001. Teachers also supplement the curriculum with math literature, skill reinforcement, games and challenging activities.

Everyday Math

Everyday Mathematics is a research-based curriculum developed by the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project (UCSMP). UCSMP believes that, with the information explosion and advances in technology, society today demands not just basic computation skills, but a more sophisticated understanding of mathematics. It seeks to raise expectations for all students, bringing their performance in math to world-class standards.

Everyday Math (EM) is currently used by over 175,000 classrooms and 2.8 million students. EM differs in many ways from math courses parents may remember from their childhood. Two major differences are its structure and how students are assessed.

Structure

Unlike traditional programs, EM does not present a concept to students, expect them to master it and then move on to a new concept. Instead, the “big ideas” in math are spiraled into the curriculum. **Spiraling** means that a teacher introduces a mathematical idea that

students will revisit again and again, in deeper and deeper contexts throughout elementary school. For example, kindergarteners will make a simple graph showing how many children have birthdays each month. By fifth grade, students will demonstrate the same skills in gathering and graphing data in a more sophisticated way by designing a survey, collecting and interpreting data and graphing the results.

EM also differs from traditional curricula in that several different algorithms (methods) for doing operations are presented. Ensuring that a child can work with different algorithms and understand why different methods work deepens a child’s mastery of the concept at hand.

Assessment

Assessment is also different in EM. Since children’s learning is gradual, teachers rate their work in stages:

- Beginning** - Students are initially exposed to a concept
- Developing** - Students show some understanding, but still need help
- Secure** - Students are able to apply concept or skill without help

Each child is expected to progress through each stage. At times, the expectation is that children will only show a little understanding of a new concept. This is okay. The child’s understanding of the concept will be developed fully over time.

Suggestions for Parents

- **Be actively involved in your child’s math education and promote the importance of mathematical literacy.**
- **Be sure to read the Home Links, Study Links and Letters to Parents to understand the concepts and the language used in the classroom.**
- **Attend Parent Math evenings where you can learn algorithms used in Everyday Math.**
- **Encourage your child to teach you the math games they learn in school and play them whenever you can.**
- **Help your child master basic facts by regularly practicing Fact Families.**
- **Understand that your child will learn math differently than you did. Be flexible!**

