Dear Parents,

The intent of this letter is to provide information regarding the Singapore mathematics program used by the Orchard Farm School District.

• **What is Singapore mathematics?**

Singapore mathematics is an approach to mathematics that began in Singapore.

It has gained attention in the United States for its research proven results and its

approach in developing a firm understanding of mathematical concepts. It moves

students through a process of understanding math concepts through concrete, pictorial,

and abstract learning processes. Singapore math helps students build a firm

understanding of number sense and fluency with basic number facts. This foundation

then allows students to apply these skills directly to problem solving situations and

forces students to use higher-order thinking skills. Students use the model drawing

method as a way to apply their knowledge of basic math skills to problem solving

situations.

• **Why has Orchard Farm chosen to use Singapore mathematics?**

The Singapore math program shows proven results in raising student

achievement. The Orchard Farm School District is committed to the success of our

students and believes it is important to embrace new opportunities to support our

students. According to the TIMSS report (Trends in International Mathematics and

Science Study), students in Singapore who use this approach to math score consistently at the top in the area of mathematics internationally. Additionally, areas of

the United States who use Singapore math methods have demonstrated higher student achievement

scores on the NAEP (The National Assessment of Educational Progress) assessment in

the area of mathematics. We believe this approach to mathematics is the next step we

need to take to support our students and raise their mathematics achievement scores.

• **What does the daily math lesson look like for my child?**

The daily math lesson provides all students with engaging and hands-on

opportunities to explore mathematics concepts. The lessons rely on questioning

techniques that require students to think quickly, use mental math skills, and problem

solving skills. The typical daily lesson includes the following components:

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| **Mental Math:** -Students rely on mental math skills to establish and maintain fluency in basic math facts.  | **Teacher Directed Instruction:** -Teacher directed instruction for a specific math skill helps students build understanding of math concepts and vocabulary.  | **Activity:** -Students participate in guided activities to support the math concept taught for the day. This provides students with guided practice opportunities.  | **Problem Solving:** -Students apply knowledge of math skills to problem solving situations. Model drawing is the preferred strategy for this portion.  | **Independent Practice:** -Students are given independent math practice for the specific skill taught that day. Teachers are able to support students’ individual needs during this time.  |

• **How can I provide support as a parent?**

Students will be exploring multiple methods of solving mathematical problems with Singapore math. Students begin by using methods that help demonstrate a firm understanding of the concept before moving to the traditional algorithms. It is important to allow your child to try multiple methods and ensure they understand the mathematical thinking behind a concept before asking them to complete problems using traditional methods. If you have questions about specific methods you see students

using, please feel free to ask your child’s teacher for additional support. We have a wonderful team of teachers who is working to develop parent support materials and are enthusiastic about helping our community understand Singapore math. Additionally, homework plays an important role in this program. Students will be given time during class to complete independent work. However, work that students are not able to finish during that time will be assigned as homework. This means that

students may have homework each night of the week, but it will vary based on what

students were able to complete during independent work time. Please review teacher

communications carefully regarding how your child will communicate their math

homework needs each night.

As students will regularly bring home math homework and materials, we ask

that you help your child return their math materials to school each day. Students are

expected to come to class prepared, which means they will need their math workbooks

to travel safely between school and home each day. This also provides a wonderful

opportunity to help our students establish routines that promote individual responsibility

and organization skills.

 We are excited to offer the Singapore mathematics approach and watch our

students grow as mathematical thinkers. Our teachers are dedicated to supporting students, parents,

and the community as we learn the benefits Singapore math offers. Please don’t hesitate to ask

questions this year as you work with your child to support their learning. We believe it is important for

school and home to work as a team. We look forward to working with you this year! Thank you for

your support!

Sincerely,

OFES Faculty