

BCSD All District K-5 Parent Math Meetings

Investigations: The BCSD “New Math” Curriculum

Monday, October 10, 2011

Hemingway School Library: 8:15 – 9:15 am

Hailey School Library: 1:15 – 2:15 pm

INVESTIGATIONS MATH (TERC) is a K-5 curriculum developed at TERC in Cambridge, Massachusetts. While the program was created with good intentions, it has sparked much debate across the country because it's reform mathematics philosophy and curricula ***differs significantly in approach and content*** to standard mathematics philosophy and curricula.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW:

- According to the U.S. Department of Education, ***no valid math study*** has ever been performed showing the effectiveness of TERC *Investigations*.
- School districts across the country have removed or are in the process of removing TERC *Investigations*.
- Hundreds of leading university math professors and Nobel Laureates condemn reform mathematics such as TERC *Investigations*:

*“If your child goes to a school that uses TERC Investigations, you should understand that it means your child’s school has **abdicated its responsibility to teach your child mathematics**. By doing so, the responsibility now rests with the parents. Good Luck.”* (emphasis added)

–Dr. W. Stephen Wilson, Ph.D Professor of Mathematics at Johns Hopkins University, Ph.D in mathematics for MIT, author of numerous mathematic standards and reviews, and father of a former TERC student.

*“A TERC teacher doesn't explain, and a TERC teacher **doesn't teach!** I don't want to be misunderstood: group learning and discovery learning are parts of the tool chest of every accomplished teacher, **but it is folly to turn these techniques into an ideology**. If we mathematicians had to re-discover mathematics on our own, we would not get very far! And indeed, TERC does not get very far. **By the end of fifth grade, TERC students have fallen roughly two years behind where they should be.**”* (emphasis added)

–Dr. Wilfried Schmid, Harvard University

WHAT CONCERNED PARENTS CAN DO:

- **Research** TERC *Investigations* & get informed. See website: <http://blaineparents.org/>
- **Attend** a Math Meeting on **Monday, Oct. 10th**.
- Request a forum or survey where teachers and administrators can *anonymously* voice their honest opinions about TERC's *Investigations*.
- Write letters to the School Board to let them know what you think of this **controversial program**.

WHICH MATH PROBLEM DO YOU WANT YOUR CHILD TO BE ABLE TO ANSWER IN 5TH GRADE???

Sample Investigations Math Problems (5th grade)

A store orders 75 cases of juice. Each case holds 24 cans of juice. How many cans of juice will be delivered?

End of Unit 7 Assessment: Solve 253×46 . Use clear and concise notions to show your solution.

Sample Singapore Math Problem (5th grade)

Adam bought 8 note pads at \$1.45 each and 10 towels. He gave the cashier \$100 and received \$46 change. Find the cost of a towel.

In *Beyond Arithmetic*, a TERC recommended text for teachers, Susan Jo Russell, Co-Principal Researcher of *Investigations*, states that **traditional elementary math must be discarded**. Students should **not** memorize facts, procedures, definitions and formulas; and standard algorithms interfere with a child's growing sense and fluency with the number system. (paraphrased, emphasis added)