



Phillips Brooks School

Math Curriculum Deep Dive Summary

August 22, 2018

Last year

- Meetings with parent team and faculty teams to discuss and identify program strengths, concerns, and gap areas that need attention.
- Articulated a shared commitment to continue enhancing the strengths of the PBS philosophy and approach to math learning while targeting actions for improvement.
- A PBS team conducted on-site interviews with a math team at the seven middle schools where 80% of our graduates attend. They discussed what's expected on Day 1 in 6th grade, the trajectory of their middle school math curricula, what math tools students need to be successful, what schools see in their strongest math students, and how PBS graduates are doing. We learned that it is a challenge to prepare our students for the wide diversity of program approaches and expectations at our peer schools. In addition, our interviews revealed:
 - *PBS program strengths:* Math conceptual understanding, problem-solving strategies, PBS graduates as flexible thinkers with growth mindsets
 - *PBS improvement areas:* Automaticity, fluency, efficiency
- A faculty team reviewed and discussed all this information at the Math Curriculum Deep Dive in June. Top of mind was to identify actions to address improvement areas. In addition, the team confirmed that Bridges in Mathematics is the best core math curriculum for our students. It is clear that Bridges is a resource we can access further to address the improvements areas. We also will continue supplementing in our classroom with other resources for challenge, intervention, and extension.

This year

- Continue enhancing the strengths of the PBS philosophy and approach to math learning.
- Better balance computational fluency and operations mastery with strong math intuition and conceptual understanding.
- Increase parent understanding and confidence in the program.

Actions

- Align PBS curriculum PS-5 to ensure program strength and middle school readiness.
- Assessment drives instruction: Faculty will use pre-assessments and post-assessments for each unit in Bridges to more-specifically track student progress.
- Setting students up for success in middle school: Test-taking strategies will be introduced in 3rd grade in a workshop model, build further in 4th grade, and continue in 5th grade through Test-Innovators.
- All teachers will use Bridges progress reports to enhance information and data on individual student progress.
- All students will complete the "Comprehensive Growth Assessment" at the end of the year so this data can be sent along to the next grade level to smooth the transition from grade to grade.
- Create a curriculum guide to offer parent visibility into the why and what of the math program.
- The Math Curriculum Deep Dive Team will offer faculty workshops and will work specifically with grade-level teams to ensure we're working towards our goals and actions.