

As part of our mission to prepare our students to meet global challenges and become leaders for tomorrow, St. Mary's Springs Academy is deeply committed to providing our students with the best education possible in order for students to be fully prepared for each level of schooling and ultimately for college and/or career. With learning and community as key components of *The Ledger Way*, we strive to provide this high-quality education in partnership with our families. An essential component is that our parents/guardians have information about changes that are in store for their child's educational programming.

It has been over six years since our last mathematics curriculum adoption from kindergarten through eighth grade. After researching programs and best practices for teaching mathematics, as well as consultation with the CESA 6 Math Center, St. Mary's Springs Academy will be transitioning to *Illustrative Mathematics* by Kendall Hunt Publishing. The new math materials will provide increased rigor and will meet the needs of all students while also being aligned with the Archdiocesan standards. This will also provide us with a unified math curriculum that spans all grade levels from kindergarten through eighth grade.

Illustrative Mathematics is a problem-based curriculum rooted in content and practice standards. Students learn by doing math, solving problems in mathematical and real-world context, and constructing arguments using precise language. Teachers facilitate student learning with high-leverage routines that guide students in understanding and making connections between concepts and procedures. Lessons are designed with independent, group, and whole class instruction.

A typical lesson has four phases:

1. a warm-up
2. one or more instructional activities
3. the lesson synthesis
4. a cool-down

Teachers will be sharing additional information with you regarding the specifics for each grade level. If you would like to know more about *Illustrative Mathematics*, you can access more detailed information about the curriculum through <https://im.kendallhunt.com/>. We are excited about the start of the new school year and your involvement in our school community. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Melissa Trepte
Director of Curriculum and Instruction