



## Rock View Elementary School

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Dear Parents of Students in Grade 3:

As you know, Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) has been implementing the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in Curriculum 2.0 (C2.0). This new curriculum is designed to challenge all levels of students across the various content areas. As we move forward in curriculum rollout in mathematics, we anticipate that students enrolled in C2.0 will continue the CCSS trajectory of a steeper challenge each year as defined in the existing grade level curriculum. While I expect almost all students will be well-served in the C2.0 Grade 4 Math next year, there may be a few students who would benefit from a yet steeper climb. MCPS has designed a compacted mathematics course beginning in Grade 4. This course combines all of Grade 4 mathematics with part of Grade 5. To learn more about the progression of courses, visit the C2.0 math site: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/math/>

To help determine which students are the “Best-Fit” for the compacted course we are reviewing existing student data for all students currently enrolled in Grade 3. This review helps identify which students might be considered candidates for the compacted course the following school year. Students identified as potential candidates from the Grade 3 team will engage in several assessment tasks from November to February. These tasks are not a separate test a child can prepare for. They are part of instruction in Curriculum 2.0 Grade 3 Math and will provide more information on how well the candidate students fit the criteria for the compacted course.

To be considered a best fit for the compacted course, a student must:

- Independently and consistently demonstrate proficiency as defined by the five strands of understanding, computing, applying, reasoning, and engaging in mathematics (UCARE), *earlier* than the end of instruction for concepts and/or topics;
- Meet the system criteria for enriched and accelerated mathematics within the assessment tasks;
- Have needs that would best be met through a much quicker pace of instruction, while maintaining the depth of understanding; and
- Be among the highest performing students in that grade level or he or she does not have a group of similarly situated peers in his or her grade level class.

We are excited about the promise of the challenge the CCSS will provide for all students in mathematics. Once the process has been completed, parents will be notified if their child is considered a candidate for the Grade 4/5 Compacted Math in Grade 4 in the spring.

Please contact me or your child’s teacher if you have a question.

Sincerely,

Kris Alexander, Principal