

News from the Stamford Public Schools

For immediate release

May 7, 2008

Contact: Sarah Arnold, Public Affairs Officer (203) 977-4095

**STAMFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS INTRODUCES
NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH CURRICULUM**

The Stamford Public Schools Math Curriculum Committee will introduce the district's new middle school mathematics program at a presentation Wednesday, May 7 at 1:00 pm at the University of Connecticut, Broad Street at Washington Boulevard, in Room 108.

The Connected Math Program (CMP), will be implemented in all five middle schools starting next fall, beginning with grade 6. CMP, which is funded by the National Science Foundation, develops student understanding of important math concepts, skills, procedures, and ways of thinking and reasoning in all math strands (numbers, geometry, measurement, algebra, probability, and statistics).

CMP will help prepare all Stamford students for four years of rigorous math courses in high school. "CMP represents our latest efforts to raise our standards for everyone as well as help each and every child acquire the knowledge and skills they will need in the 21st century," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joshua Starr.

The Connected Math Program lays the foundation for algebra, which is known to be the gateway to high level mathematics. The initiative is made possible by the generosity of the GE Foundation. Thanks to their \$15 million Developing Futures grant, the district is improving math and science instruction at all grade levels, starting with the introduction of Everyday Math in all twelve elementary schools last fall.

Middle School Math (2)

CMP has received a variety of recognitions. It was rated # 1 by the U.S. Department of Education for Middle School Math programs (standards-based or otherwise).

The district's Math Curriculum Committee selected CMP for Stamford's middle schools because it provides a variety of activities to meet the needs of diverse learners, incorporates the use of technology, offers online investigations and interactive tools that students can use at home, and provides support for families. CMP is used by a broad range of school districts across the state of Connecticut and the nation.

Today's presentation of CMP will focus on the vision of mathematics in Stamford. This will include:

- Why there is a need for a change in math instruction;
- What that change will look like for teachers and students;
- The work of the Middle School Math Committee this year and next;
- Information on The Connected Math Program

Stamford's middle school teachers will receive program materials during professional development sessions scheduled for next month.

#

