

# Bernards Township Public Schools

Office of Curriculum & Instruction

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In August of 2010, the New Jersey Department of Education adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for Mathematics K-12. The Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governor's Association initiated the CCSS in order to create a set of career and college ready standards. The K-8 standards for mathematics have created a roadmap for what students should know and be able to do for each grade. The design of the K-8 standards allows educators to focus (for each grade) on fewer concepts, but in greater depth. The CCSS calls for a balanced approach to mathematics curriculum and instruction and are designed so that students will develop a deep and complete understanding of the grade level skills and concepts. The New Jersey Department of Education is requiring school districts to implement the CCSS for grades K-2 in 2011-2012 and for grades 3-5 in 2012-2013. New assessments are being developed to align the CCSS for the spring of 2014.

To respond to the demands of the CCSS and the Department of Education's timelines we in the Bernards Township Schools have revised the elementary mathematics curriculum and have also adopted a new program including textbooks and materials beginning with grades K-2 in 2011 and 3-5 in 2012. The textbook is entitled Go Math and is published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. These new materials are specifically written to align the CCSS, and at every grade level are organized around the critical areas identified in the CCSS.

In addition to a variety of resources that are available for students and teachers, the Go Math program comes with a plethora of online student materials, practice and games. As the year progresses, your child will have access to these resources.

If you would like further information about the CCSS please visit [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org) and follow the links to the standards for mathematics. For further information about Go Math please visit [www.hmheducation.com/gomath](http://www.hmheducation.com/gomath), or contact my office via email or telephone (listed above).

Sincerely,



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