

# LETTER HOME

## Welcome to First Grade

Dear Family Member:

Our class will use a curriculum called *Math Trailblazers*™. The curriculum meets national recommendations for improving mathematics education in our schools.

We will create a mathematics classroom where students work together on meaningful and challenging tasks and discuss their ideas with their peers, teacher, and family. You will receive a letter at the beginning of every unit that updates you on the math concepts and skills your child is learning. At times, I will ask you to participate by sending small items to school, playing a math game with your child, or helping with homework assignments.

In the first unit, *Welcome to First Grade*, your child will count classroom objects, use links to compare lengths of objects, and explore a math facts strategy called counting on. For example, when counting a nickel and two pennies your child might say, “Five, six, seven,” instead of starting with “one.”

You can help by providing additional mathematics opportunities at home.

- **Numbers in Print.** Encourage your child to identify numbers on signs, in the newspaper, on the phone, and on a calendar. When your child identifies a number, ask a question about that number, for example, “What comes after eight?”
- **Play the Train Game.** Your child will learn how to play this game in Lesson 3. Each of the two players will need 10 counters of the same color (e.g., red and green blocks, black and white beans, pennies and dimes). Two players work together to build one train of 10 counters. Player 1 starts by choosing 1, 2, or 3 counters. Players take turns choosing to add 1, 2, or 3 counters at a time to the train. Students must say the number of cubes in the train after their turn. Whoever places the tenth counter and finishes the train is the winner.



I look forward to working with your child. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or comments.

Sincerely,