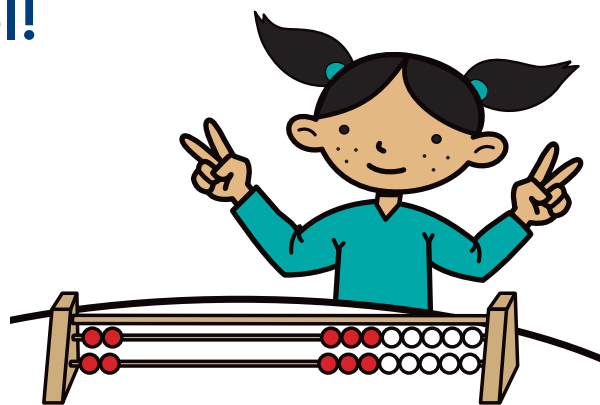


## Dear First Grade Families,

# Welcome back to school!

This year we are using Bridges in Mathematics, a K–5 math program that will help us meet the new standards and make math meaningful and exciting. In first grade, students focus on addition and subtraction, place value, and shapes. Throughout the year they:



- Add and subtract with numbers to 20, including with story problems
- Become fluent with addition and subtraction facts to 10
- Count to 120 and learn about place value (ones, tens, hundreds)
- Identify, sort, and draw shapes
- Fit shapes together to make other shapes, solve puzzles, and talk about fractions

Bridges uses visual models to make the mathematics accessible to all learners. One way that children approach math is through pictures. For example, your child might look at the picture below and answer questions like, “What did you notice about this picture? Where do you see the numbers in the picture? How can you use the picture to help solve the problem?”



$$5 = \underline{\quad\quad} + \underline{\quad\quad}$$

When you talk with your child about their math work, it might sometimes seem unfamiliar or different than you remember. But there are still many ways you can help them explore math! By being open to learning and talking with your child, you can help your child develop strong skills and a love of math.

Get more information and ideas about how to help your child at [www.mathlearningcenter.org/families](http://www.mathlearningcenter.org/families).