



Julie E. Ward, Mathematics District Coordinator K-12 Katisha John, Upper School Math Coach 6-8 Heidi Fessenden, Elementary Math Coach K-5 Kelley Leary, Clerk

135 Berkshire Street • Cambridge, MA 02141 • 617.349.6683 • www.cpsd.us

September 23, 2020

The Cambridge Public Schools Mathematics Department will be using adapted scope and sequences maps for grades 6-8 during the 2020-2021 school year. These maps will focus teaching and learning on prioritized grade level units and standards due to the reduced number of instructional days and synchronous instruction this school year and allow time for relationship building, social emotional learning and building positive student math identity. Please see the SY20-21 CPS Revised Scope and Sequence Documents for more details. Our eighth grade students will be introduced to high school Algebra 1 standards throughout this school year as the content connects to 8th grade concepts and be provided with an opportunity during the spring/summer 2021 to study the high school Algebra 1 curriculum outside of the regular school day. We are also skillfully focusing on creating resources and materials that are culturally responsive, engaging, and adaptable to online learning.

<u>Illustrative Mathematics</u> is a math curriculum that is aligned to current content and practice standards, and builds a strong foundation in problem solving, conceptual understanding, and procedural fluency. Topics will be taught so that they build on previous understanding and prepare students for future math learning. Here is a review from <u>Ed Reports</u> that supports the strength of this resource.

The Illustrative Mathematics Curriculum is a problem based curriculum and a strong example of culturally responsive teaching practices, including daily ambitious instructional routines like number talks & notice and wonder, and a focus on group work and discussion. Students have regular opportunities to make connections to real-world contexts.

This summer, CPS educators worked with our Biogen/STARR grant partner, Lesley University staff, to engage with distance learning technology and co-design educator tools for teaching and learning.

All students in grades 6-8 will have access to <u>Math IXI</u> and <u>ALEKS</u>. Math IXL and ALEKS are available for students to do self paced independent work to review or practice math skills.

Please contact us for additional information or to answer any questions.

Julie Ward Katisha John