

August, 2010

RE: SAXON MATH

Dear ICS Families:

Starting next year, our students in grades 1-8 will be using the **Saxon Math** program. Saxon is unlike traditional texts in which students are taught and expected to learn an entire mathematical concept in one day. Instead of practicing 30 problems of the same kind, Saxon Math builds mastery through daily practice of skills and concepts taught in earlier lessons.

Saxon textbooks divide concepts into small, easily grasped pieces called increments. A new increment is presented each day, and students work only a few problems each day involving the new materials. The remaining homework problems cover previously introduced concepts. Thus, every assignment (and every test) is a review of material covered up to that point, providing students with the time and opportunity to understand and remember necessary concepts.

Learning mathematics is similar to learning a foreign language, a musical instrument, or an athletic skill. Long-term practice is necessary to develop and maintain mastery of the problem-solving skills.

To prepare for the new program, our teachers will be participating in Saxon professional development in August. More information about Saxon will be available when we return to school in September. As a team, we are looking forward to using this new math program.

Hope that you were able to take time to relax and have fun this summer.

Peace,

Mrs. Madeline M. Meaney