

Everyday Mathematics®

TOP 5 FACTS TO KNOW ABOUT *EVERYDAY MATHEMATICS*

Everyday Mathematics is a structured, rigorous, and proven program that helps students learn mathematical reasoning and develop strong math skills. *Everyday Mathematics* is the program of choice for over 3 million students in over 185,000 classrooms nationwide. No other program has been developed as thoroughly and carefully over time, with full field testing prior to publication. In addition, no other program has the extensive verification that it works. Here are the top 5 facts to know about *Everyday Mathematics*:

❶ *Everyday Mathematics* is research-based. The University of Chicago School Mathematics program responded to a National Science Foundation grant to develop a rigorous mathematics program that would teach students more mathematics, beginning at Kindergarten. Prior to undertaking curriculum development, the *Everyday Mathematics* authors looked at how other nations teach math as well as the research regarding effective classroom practices. The result is that *Everyday Mathematics* has a solid research foundation.

❷ *Everyday Mathematics* was field tested one year at a time—and revised based on feedback—prior to publication. The curriculum is the result of a rich collaboration between the University of Chicago School Mathematics Project (UCSMP) author team, distinguished mathematicians, education specialists, teachers-in-residence, and hundreds of classroom teachers.

The program was fully field tested with teachers in classrooms across the United States, and revised prior to publication. This unique field testing informed a rigorous curriculum that is accessible for teachers and students. Twenty years of experience demonstrate that students and teachers can be very successful with *Everyday Mathematics*.

❸ *Everyday Mathematics* has higher expectations for both teachers and students. *Everyday Mathematics* not only teaches basic skills, but also expands beyond traditional drills. The program encourages children to understand *why* math is important and *how* they reach their answers, so they internalize what they are learning. As a result, students find it easier to remember basic skills, to apply what they know in order to solve problems, and to think mathematically.

Children learn and practice all of the basic math facts, and they do it in multiple ways, including paper-and-pencil exercises, hands-on use of math manipulatives, and skills-based mathematics games.

The program also has extensive teacher materials that provide a wealth of information for both the novice and experienced teacher. The *Everyday Mathematics* authors were careful to ensure that teachers are given the support they need to provide accurate, meaningful, and differentiated mathematics instruction to meet the needs of all their students.

④ *Everyday Mathematics*' unique instructional design ensures that students learn basic skills and mathematics strategies and can apply them in a variety of situations. Research has shown that children learn best when new topics are presented at a brisk pace, with multiple exposures over time, and with frequent opportunities for review and practice. The sequence of instruction in *Everyday Mathematics* has been carefully mapped out to optimize these conditions for learning and retaining knowledge. Every new concept or skill is introduced informally, and then is revisited in a variety of contexts over several grade levels. Each subsequent exposure builds upon previous experience, helping children develop proficiency over time. *Everyday Mathematics* works to develop both students' knowledge of mathematics and their ability and willingness to apply what they know.

⑤ *Everyday Mathematics* effectiveness has been documented through a variety of studies. No other program has been scrutinized as widely, both from researchers and program users. *Everyday Mathematics* students have been found to be mathematically literate on a wide variety of measures, including state-mandated tests, commercially available standardized tests, tests constructed by UCSMP, and tests written by independent researchers.

As a recent report from the National Academy of Sciences (National Research Council, 2004) makes clear, no other currently available elementary school mathematics program has been subjected to so much scrutiny by so many researchers. The agreement about the curriculum across so many research studies is the strongest evidence that *Everyday Mathematics* is effective.

Everyday Mathematics is more rigorous than many other programs, and the results are seen in higher test scores. For example, the ARC Center, located at the Consortium for Mathematics and its Applications (COMAP), studied the records of 78,000 students and found that the average standardized test scores were significantly higher for students in *Everyday Mathematics* schools than for students in comparison schools.

In the *Everyday Mathematics* Intervention Report, posted by the What Works Clearinghouse, *Everyday Mathematics* was found to have a “potentially positive effect” – this is the second highest rating possible – something not yet accomplished by any other elementary math curriculum.

In addition, many districts have shared that they see markedly improved student outcomes on state-mandated tests. Some of these districts include: New York City, NY; Philadelphia, PA; Virginia Beach, VA; Kent, WA; Fayetteville, AR; Citrus County, FL; and Chattanooga, TN.

In Summary: *Everyday Mathematics* is a solid, rich curriculum that provides students with the tools and skills they will need to live and work in a technologically complex world. In an increasing competitive global economy, today's students need mathematical skills that go beyond basic arithmetic, skills that include the ability to problem solve, to handle complex data, and to process information using higher-order thinking skills. A new way of mathematics education is necessary to allow students to succeed in the 21st century. *Everyday Mathematics* is that curriculum.