

**School Committee Curriculum Subcommittee**

**Tuesday, September 17, 2019**

4:00 PM-6:00 PM

School Committee Room, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Town Hall

Curriculum Subcommittee Members Present: Barbara Scotto (Chair), Helen Charlupski, Susan Wolf Ditkoff (by phone), and Jennifer Monopoli.

Other School Committee Members Present: Julie Schreiner-Oldham, Suzanne Federspiel, and David Pearlman.

Staff Present: Ben Lummis, Nicole Gittens, Mary Brown, Meg Maccini, and Robin Coyne.

Others Present: Baker School Science Teacher Yasameen Sharif, Baker PTO member Shal Shahani, Jeremy Bloch, and Bob Miller.

Ms. Charlupski announced that Ms. Ditkoff will be participating remotely, by phone.

**1) Approval of Curriculum Subcommittee Minutes**

On a motion of Ms. Charlupski and seconded by Ms. Scotto, the Curriculum Subcommittee voted (Ms. Monopoli abstained) to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2019 Curriculum Subcommittee meeting.

**2) Update on Kindergarten Professional Development Plans**

Mr. Lummis provided an update on kindergarten professional development plans. He referred to his August 30, 2019 letter to kindergarten teachers. Mr. Lummis notes in the letter that he agrees with Mr. Bott's earlier comments on the importance of play in the classroom; that curriculum integration is key to ensuring children's engagement and fostering our students' intellect and love of learning; and that planning involved in this type of teaching and learning is extensive and necessary to make sure our students are receiving a quality, integrated, play-based experience.

Mr. Lummis referred to his September 12, 2019 report to the School Committee:

*Dr. Nicole Gittens, Dr. Regina Watts, Dr. Mary Brown, Joanna Lieberman and I are continuing our important work with kindergarten teachers this year. On Friday, September 6, we met for two hours with 14 kindergarten teachers in the Driscoll Library to begin this process. The passion, intelligence, thoughtfulness and care expressed over and over again by everyone at the meeting can't be overstated. It was a powerful and productive meeting.*

*Our first - of four - planned work days this school year is scheduled for September 25. Over the course of the year we will focus on reading levels, play based learning, intentional reading and writing instruction, and schedules. I look forward to keeping you apprised of this important work.*

The Subcommittee discussed the four professional development days. The time will be repurposed so kindergarten teachers, special education teachers, and literacy specialists can work with district leaders to build common understanding on kindergarten instructional practices. Teachers were asked if they would like to help plan the September 25, 2019 professional development day.

The Subcommittee discussed end of year reading expectations. The administration wants to build consensus on what are expected reading levels at each grade. However, we know that all students do not learn at the same rate. Dr. Gittens spoke about the importance for all students to be making progress. The goal is for teachers to know if any students are struggling to make progress toward a developmentally appropriate goal and then for teachers and school staff to work to understand if the student needs any additional support or could benefit from a different approach.

Member suggestions included a one-year moratorium on kindergarten reading levels using the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education definition of emergent reader. Dr. Gittens noted that we currently have expectations at every grade level and that literacy impacts all curriculum. Mr. Lummis requested time to work through some of these issues with coordinators, specialists, coaches, and teachers before making any changes.

### **3) New Business**

Baker School Science Teacher Yasameen Sharif and Baker PTO member Shal Shahani requested that the district consider paying for a district-wide multi-year BrainPop software subscription for \$18,000 so that teachers throughout the district can use the program. Ms. Sharif and Ms. Shahani presented information on current Baker software usage, cost, and funding (Attachment A). Ms. Sharif demonstrated the program and discussed its benefits for teachers and students. She said that the program engages students, can be used in class and at home, fits with the curriculum, and is a good way to reinforce or introduce a topic. The program is already used in a number of our classrooms and schools (not all of our schools can afford the cost). It is more cost-effective to purchase one unlimited subscriptions vs multiple subscriptions for individual classrooms and schools. The Baker PTO has been requesting this for several years. Last year Ms. Normen suggested that the PTOs no longer fund school technology. The previous K-8 Science Curriculum Coordinator was reluctant to fund the subscription from her budget because the program covers a number of subjects, not just science.

Mr. Lummis described the typical sequence for approving new items. Curriculum Coordinators vet products and then decide whether to include them in their annual budget request. Considerations include the following: how well does the product tie into the curriculum; how does it compare to other products; how does the vendor use student data; is it the most appropriate way to teach the content, training needs, and overall value and cost. This subscription has not been included in any Curriculum Coordinator budget requests. Funding this item would mean a reduction elsewhere in the budget.

Members noted some potential benefits of the program and expressed concern that school ability to pay for the software might be an equity issue. Dr. Brown will confer with curriculum coordinators at a meeting tomorrow and staff will report back to the Subcommittee.

### **4) Plans for the 2019-2020 Year, including Phase 1 - Brookline High School 9-12 Math**

Ms. Maccini provided a brief update on Phase 1 of the Brookline High School 9-12 Math Program Review (Attachment B). Ms. Hubbard intends to present the update at all of the schools. The Program Review will look at the connection between grades 8 and 9.

The Subcommittee discussed potential agenda items for the 2019-2020 school year, including Math Program Review Updates; Study of ExCEL, School Within A School (SWS), Alternative Choices in Education (ACE), and Other Brookline High School Alternatives (coordinate with Ms. Ngo-Miller); Portrait of a Graduate (have surveyed many groups; plan to survey students); Learning Expectations; Kindergarten; Middle School Offerings; PTO Software Purchases; MCAS Data Review; and Special Education Program Review, including RISE (coordinate with Ms. Ngo-Miller and perhaps schedule a joint meeting of the Curriculum and Capital Improvements Subcommittees).

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

# Software Usage at Baker School

# Softwares / Subscriptions Desired by Baker Homeroom Teachers

SOFTWARE	%of CLASSROOM
BrainPop	25%
Brainpop Jr	8%
RAZ-Kids	12%
Education.com	4%
Freckle	4%
IXL	4%
KidPix	4%
Super Teacher	4%
Type To learn	4%
Jr. Scholastic magazine	3%
Newsela	3%
Reading A-Z	3%
Starfall	3%
Writing A-Z	3%
ExtraMath	2%
Headspace	2%
Junior Scholastic magazine	1%
Listenwise	1%
National Geographic	1%
Pebble Go	1%
Time for kids online	1%
XtraMath	1%

Source: Data collected as of 09/16/2019

- Survey was sent out to all 37 homeroom teachers from Kindergarten to 8<sup>th</sup> grade at Baker School
- 31 (84%) of the homeroom teachers responded to this survey
  - We believe some teachers who didn't respond to this survey had discussed their with other homeroom teachers of same grade
  - The number only correspond to teachers to submitted their response
- Only paid softwares/subscriptions are shown here.
  - Teachers also use many free softwares
  - Many of them have been in used for the past years
- BrainPop and RAZ-Kids are highly desired among homeroom teachers

# Softwares / Subscriptions Desired in Order Preference by Grade

GRADE	# HOMEROOM	GRADE	# HOMEROOM
<b>KINDERGARTEN</b>		<b>4TH GRADE</b>	
RAZ-Kids	2	BrainPop	4
Starfall	2	Education.com	4
<b>1ST GRADE</b>		Freckle	4
Brainpop Jr	4	Super Teacher	4
RAZ-Kids	4	<b>5TH GRADE</b>	
<b>2ND GRADE</b>		BrainPop	5
BrainPop	4	IXL	4
KidPix	4	<b>6TH GRADE</b>	
RAZ-Kids	4	BrainPop	3
National Geographic	1	Brainpop Jr	3
Pebble Go	1	Jr. Scholastic magazine	3
Starfall	1	Newsela	3
<b>3RD GRADE</b>		Reading A-Z	3
Type To learn	4	Writing A-Z	3
BrainPop	3	<b>7TH GRADE</b>	
ExtraMath	2	BrainPop	2
Headspace	2	Junior Scholastic maga.	1
RAZ-Kids	1	Listenwise	1
Time for kids online	1	<b>8TH GRADE</b>	
XtraMath	1	BrainPop	1

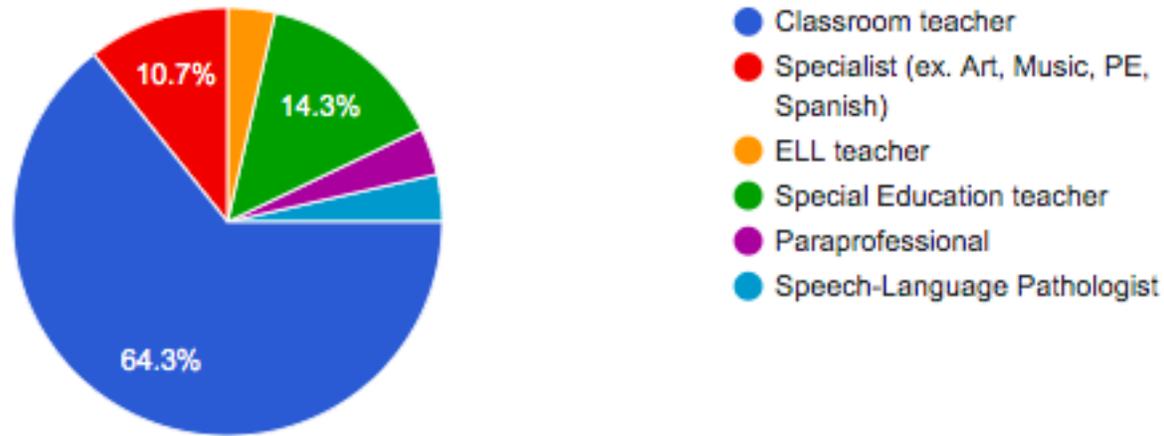
Source: Data collected  
as of 09/14/2019

- Same survey as prior page but sorted by grade and in the order of preference
- BrainPop is highly demanded by homeroom teachers from 1<sup>st</sup> grade to 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- RAZ-Kids is another software heavily used in lower grade.

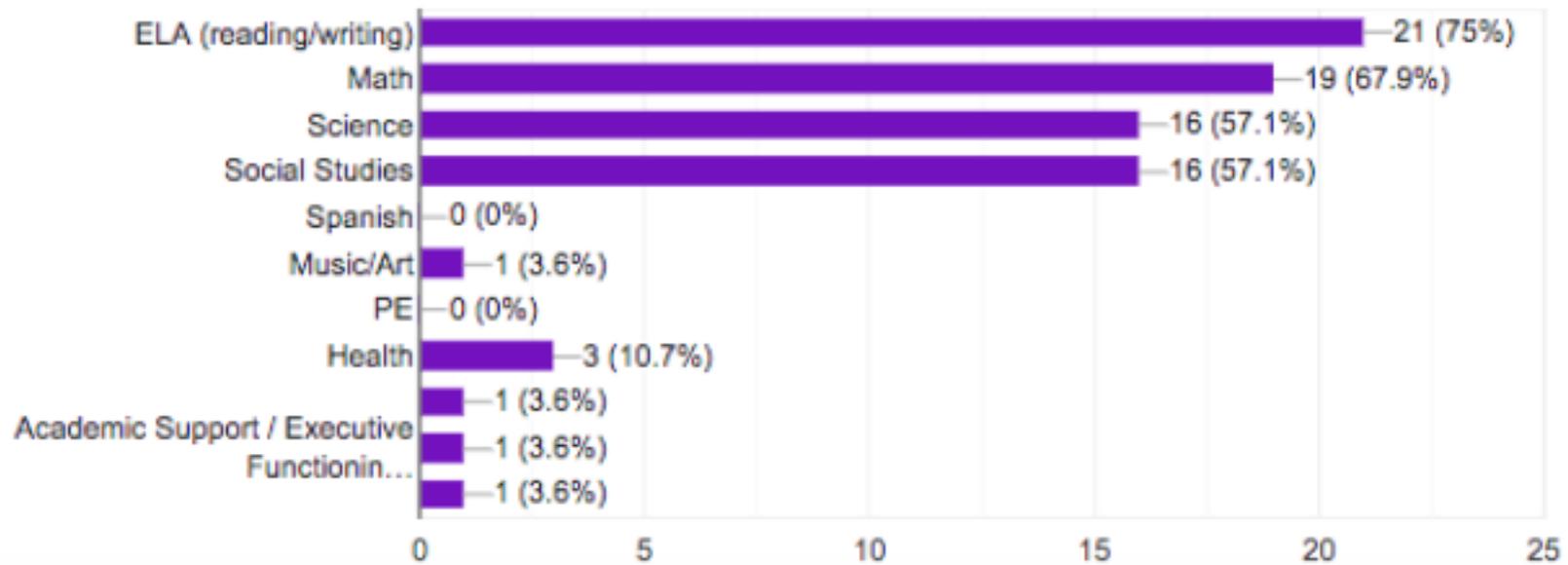
# Brian Pop Usage Information at Baker School

Teachers who responded to the survey (28) - Includes classroom teachers from grades K - 8 (all except 1st), specialists, EL, LC, Speech and Language.

Joe Mitchell	Lisa Karalis	
Summer Cosgrove	Brianna Fraser	
Yanshen Lucki	Hailie	
Erica Melmed	Joanna Lawler Moran	
Kelly Gartside	Lesley Tomion	
Emily Singer	Megan Doeg	
Mayolina	Whitney Fairley	
Danielle Goldie	Jess Llewellyn	
Courtney Martin	Danielle Anderson	Nicole Brandl
Alyssa Henry	Susan Balogh	Marney Krupat
Jen Keeler	Katy Moy	Cori MacDonald
Beth Curley	Katie Wang	Jasmin Ha



**Subjects being taught:**



Source: Provided by Ms. Sharif on 09/06/2019

# PTO Contribution to Software by Schools in 2016

SCHOOL	SOFTWARE PROGRAM	PTO CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT	- YRLY
<b>Baker</b>	Razkids	\$1,310 (annually)	\$ 1,310
	Starfall	\$270 (annually)	\$ 270
	Brainpop (3-stations)	\$1,200 (annually)	\$ 1,200
	Techsplorations	\$1,400 (annually)	\$ 1,400
	<b>Annual Contribution</b>		<b>\$ 4,180</b>
<b>Devotion</b>	Learning A-Z (including Razkids)	\$9,200 (3 year)	\$ 3,067
	Reading A-Z	above	
	Science A- Z	above	
	Brainpop	\$5852 (3 year)	\$ 1,951
	<b>Annual Contribution</b>		<b>\$ 5,017</b>
<b>Driscoll</b>	Raz-kids	None	
	iexcel	None	
	Poissonrouge	\$70 annually	\$ 70
	<b>Annual Contribution</b>		<b>\$ 70</b>
<b>Heath</b>	Raz-kids	\$340 annually	\$ 340
	Brainpop	\$380 annually	\$ 380
	<b>Annual Contribution</b>		<b>\$ 720</b>

SCHOOL	SOFTWARE PROGRAM	PTO CONTRIBUTION AMOUNT	- YRLY
<b>Lawrence</b>	Razkids		
	Brainpop		
	Starfall		
	<b>Annual Contribution</b>		<b>\$ -</b>
<b>Lincoln</b>	Learning A-Z (including Razkids)	\$4,104.05 (annual)	\$ 4,104
	Reading A-Z	above	
	Science A- Z	above	
	Brainpop	above	
	<b>Annual Contribution</b>		<b>\$ 4,104</b>
<b>Pierce</b>	Didax (Math Specialists)	\$1,500 (annually)	\$ 1,500
		<b>Annual Contribution</b>	<b>\$ 1,500</b>
<b>Runkle</b>	Raz-kids	\$100 annually	\$ 100
	Brainpop		
	<b>Annual Contribution</b>		<b>\$ 100</b>

Source: Information collected around Sep 2016, presented to Superintendent Bott and Mr. Lummis by Shal on 09/25/2016 .

# Baker PTO Contribution to Software During the Past Years

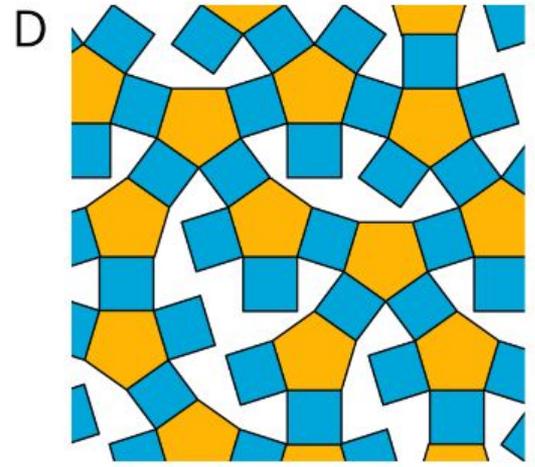
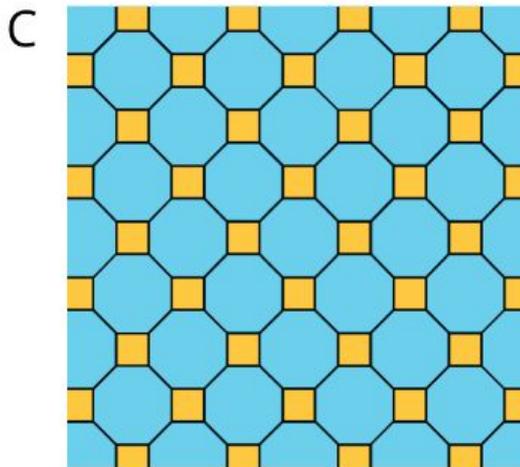
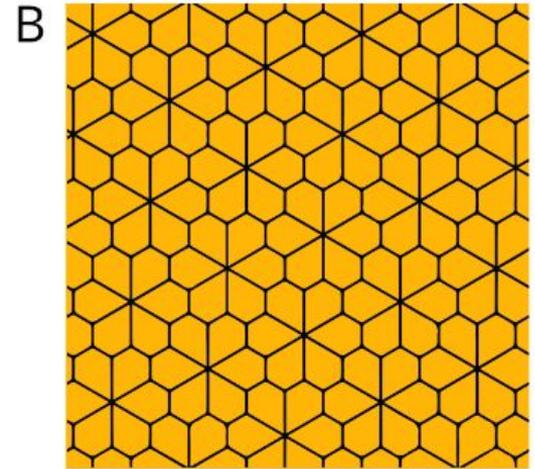
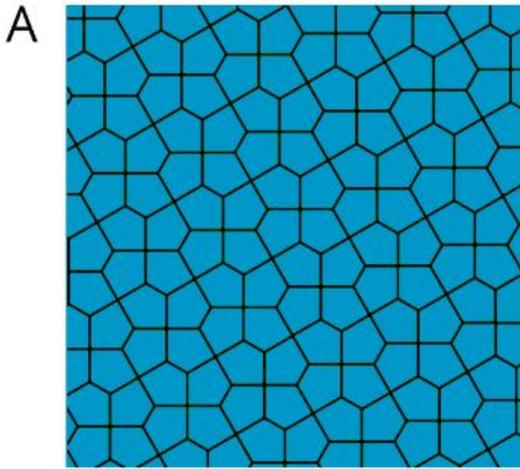
ACADEMIC YEAR	AMOUNT
SEP.2015 – JUN.2016	\$4180
SEP.2016 – JUN.2017	\$4000
SEP.2017 – JUN.2018	\$4263
SEP.2018 – JUN.2019	\$1193

# PSB K-8 Math Update

Parent Leaders Meeting - September 11, 2019



Which one  
doesn't  
belong?



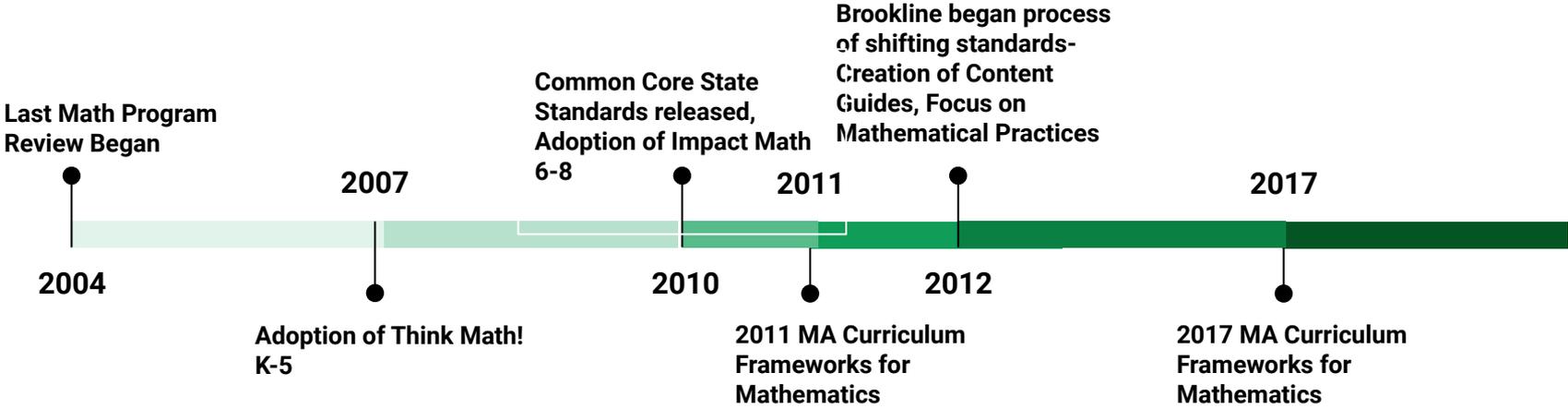
I think \_  
doesn't  
belong  
because \_.



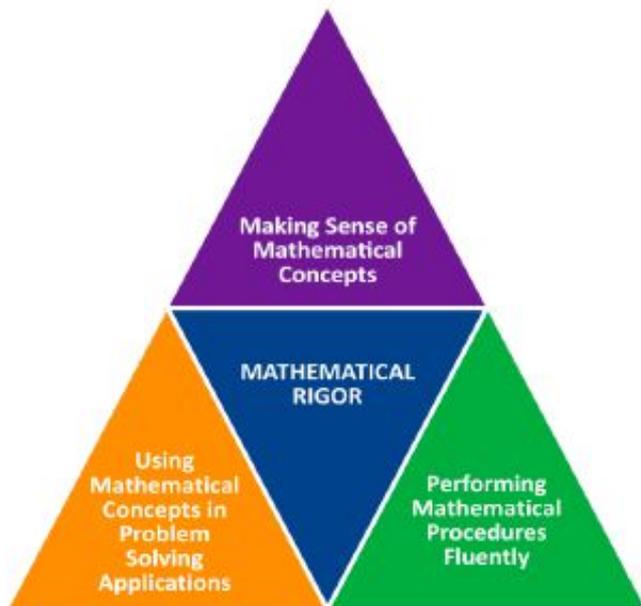
# K-8 Math



# Background of PreK-8 Math in Brookline



# Mathematics - A Balanced Approach



# Standards for Mathematical Practice

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
4. Model with mathematics.
5. Use appropriate tools strategically.
6. Attend to precision.
7. Look for and make use of structure.
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.



“... mathematical actions used by mathematicians and that are needed for successful work and living in the new technological age” (Boaler, 2013b; RAND, 2002, October).

# Grades 6-8 Illustrative Mathematics



- 2017-2018 Materials Review
- 2018-2019 Pilot year
- 2019- 2020 Implementation grades 6-8

# Grades K-5 Pilot Year: Investigations 3 and Illustrative Mathematics K-5



# Where are the K-5 pilots happening?

	Baker	Coolidge Corner	Driscoll	Heath	Lawrence	Lincoln	Pierce	Runkle
K	Purple							
1	Purple				Blue			
2		Blue						Purple
3					Blue	Purple		
4			Purple	Blue				
5			Purple				Blue	

KEY: PURPLE = ILLUSTRATIVE MATHEMATICS

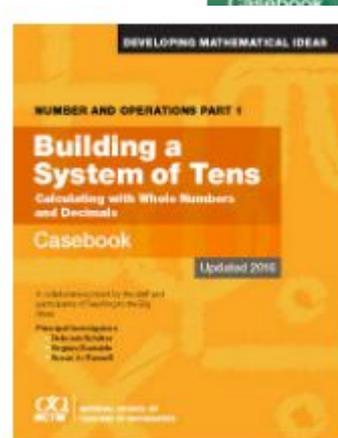
BLUE = INVESTIGATIONS 3

# Professional Development for Teachers



MADE POSSIBLE BY THE  
BROOKLINE  
EDUCATION  
FOUNDATION

Developing Mathematical Ideas Seminars



# How can you help?

Support with scheduling school-based PTO meetings to share updates and gather feedback

[kathleen\\_hubbard@psbma.org](mailto:kathleen_hubbard@psbma.org)

617-264-6410

@KBHubbardMath 

# Questions?

