

## **FOR PARENTS: SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT 2019-20 Elementary School**

This year we continue our focus on math and reading. We are increasing our focus on school climate, based on the results of a parent, student, and staff survey in fall 2018 and on our trauma-informed practices begun last school year. Read on for more details.

### **Math**

In addition to new math textbooks, each classroom has a "Number Corner" and more "math manipulatives\*," which are items that help students visualize and explain math calculations. Explaining how they get the answer to a math problem is called "Math Talk" and there's more Math Talk in classes, too.

### **Reading**

We continue to use many reading materials\* recently bought to address each student's individual reading needs. We are including Special Education teachers in the reading efforts happening in grade-level classrooms. A teacher representative for each grade level is part of a Literacy Leadership Academy\* to sustain success in reading.

### **Social-Emotional Learning / School Climate**

Your child is taking part in a Social-Emotional Learning half-hour lesson every Tuesday for 15 weeks. Experts from Peacemaker Resources\* are leading the sessions; teachers participate to reinforce the ideas and be able to teach the lessons in the future. We would like to schedule an event for parents to learn more.

### **Attendance**

We all know and research shows that students who attend more school do better in school and in life after school and students who miss more than 10% of school risk falling behind. Our school has some of the highest "chronic absenteeism" rates in the state. We continue to focus on helping students attend school consistently, and we need the support of everyone.

### **All School Improvement**

Teachers and para-educators meet every Monday morning, before students arrive, to focus on data about student learning and make changes to better help students\*. (Teachers met in the past to do this, but the time was frequently interrupted.) Also, teachers had opportunities this past summer for workshops\* in reading, math, and school climate; more workshops are scheduled during the school year.

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**If you'd like to help with school improvement, visit the school's website on parent resources.**