

## Welcome to Symphony Math

Congratulations! Your school has implemented Symphony Math, a program that helps students connect the BIG IDEAS in mathematics.

### What is a BIG IDEA?

A BIG IDEA is a concept that must be understood in order for students to succeed in higher level mathematics. For example, many of us spent a lot of time with our Addition and Subtraction facts. The BIG IDEA in adding and subtracting is 'Parts-to-Whole', or the understanding that parts can be combined to make a larger whole - and that a whole can be broken down into smaller parts. BIG IDEAS are building blocks for mathematicians. As they learn new concepts, students build on previous foundational concepts (like Parts-to-Whole) to help them understand and master new material.

### How does Symphony Math Work?

When students use Symphony Math, they aren't just practicing their facts: they are mastering BIG IDEAS. Mastery is accomplished in several ways:

#### Conceptual Understanding

Students represent each BIG IDEA in Symphony Math through the use of different visual tools, like Dot Cards, Number Lines, and Counting Bars. And when they master these tools, students connect them to traditional number sentences, and then use them to solve real-world problems.

#### Fluency

Successful math students have both a solid conceptual foundation in math and also the ability to quickly and accurately solve common math facts. Symphony Math works on fluency during every session of use to promote fast recall of basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts.

#### Adaptive Branching

Symphony Math constantly surveys your student's performance to provide the best material for them. All students have an opportunity to start at the beginning of our curriculum. As they master BIG IDEAS, they will move on to more complex material. But when they struggle, Symphony Math provides students with extensive tasks that challenge the student to truly master the material.

#### Math Mastery is Hard Work

Throughout Symphony Math, students are constantly challenged to demonstrate their mastery by constructing models, building number sentences from story problems, and building fluency in their basic facts. It's hard work, and students must use the program consistently to expect results. But the payoff is worth the effort, and students who work hard in Symphony Math will gain a solid foundation that will help them succeed in higher levels of mathematics.

