

**Rock Creek Forest Elementary School**  
**PTA Meeting Minutes**  
**October 10, 2019**

**Middle School Choice Programs**

*Ms. Carla Malozowski, Instructional Specialist, MCPS Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services*

Ms. Malozowski detailed the middle school choices available to families of fifth-grade students.

For more information, please visit the following PowerPoint Presentation:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/msmagnet/homepage/2019-20%20MSMC%20evening%20PPT%20English.pdf>

And visit the following document, “Montgomery County Public Schools Montgomery County Public Schools Middle School Selective Magnets Timeline and FAQs”:

<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/uploadedFiles/schools/bradleyhillsses/news/2019-2020%20MS%20Selective%20Magnets%20Timeline%20FAQs.pdf>

**Overview**

*Mrs. Lowndes, RCF Principal*

Mrs. Lowndes thanked Ms. Malozowski for her presentation. She said, “We are committed to giving your child the best possible education here and to keep you informed of your choices for middle school and high school, beyond elementary school.”

She welcomed RCF families to the meeting and noted that an NAACP meeting immediately *preceded the PTA meeting, and that everyone is invited to NAACP meetings [the next NAACP meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 5, at 6:00 p.m. Childcare and translation will be provided]*.

Mrs. Lowndes introduced Aracelis Vicente and Reema Aggarwal.

**Updates from the PTA Executive Committee**

*Aracelis Vicente and Reema Aggarwal, RCF PTA Co-Presidents*

The co-presidents and PTA Executive Committee members presented an update on the RCF PTA using the following PowerPoint presentation:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/17087jHbLtTGcItmkFS317NoKaZy1IFBtXZ34ILa85ns/edit>

## Eureka Math

*Aimee Domire, Math Content Coach*

*Jamie Rothman, Staff Development Teacher*

Please visit the following Powerpoint Presentation, which was shown by Ms. Domire and Ms. Rothman during the PTA meeting. Below are notes on each slide.

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1FF0KcdREIUPOb26ClqRbfrlvU-qZ-5QORPdIp8d2Dks/edit?usp=sharing>

Question from parent at the meeting: For Spanish Immersion students, is there a resource that gives Spanish equivalents for the Eureka vocabulary? For example, what is “Number Bonds” in Spanish? Sra. Mendelson, Grade 1 Spanish Immersion teacher, said vocabulary in Spanish is being prepared and will be distributed.

For more information on Number Bonds, visit:

<https://greatminds.org/math/blog/eureka/post/the-number-bond-a-k-5-model-that-fosters-number-sense>

And



### [Mental Math Using Number Bonds](#)

Ms. Domire: Remember that Eureka Math is not just about getting the answer but understanding how. “Completing the unit” (for example, the “Make Ten Strategy”) is a strategy used in Eureka Math.

Parent Question: What if the child knows the answer but can't explain the "why"?

Answer: The "why" and showing work are part of the assessment, so the child needs to be able to explain.

Parent Question: How is the transition to Eureka Math being handled for kids who haven't started with Eureka? For example, kids in kindergarten don't know another way of doing math other than Eureka, but students in older grades are starting Eureka and that is a new way of thinking.

Answer: This year grades K-3 are doing Eureka Math. Eureka Math makes math more visual and less abstract for a child who is learning a new content area. It is also not the way most of us learned math, which was "rule making".

Compacted math is slowly transitioning towards Eureka, but this year the 4/5 and 5/6 math classes are being taught as they have been in the past.

- Notes on Slide 16, "Focus on Fluency—Counting": The students count every day just like we read and write every day, to increase fluency.  
The story of units is unified by the overarching big idea of the unit. Even in 5<sup>th</sup> this is happening, with more sophisticated units.
- Happy Counting—Teacher uses "increase", "stop", and "decrease" hand signals to count by units.
- Unit counting—Example: count by unit 50 cm  
When you get to whole meter, convert to meters automatically, so counting would be 50 cm, 1 m, 150 cm, 2m, then in decreasing order, 2m 50cm, 3 m, 3m 50 cm, 4m

#### Say Ten Counting

The numbers between 10 and 20, such as 11, 12, 13, 14 etc. are abstract, and don't literally depict a number place. Instead, students are practicing counting 10, 10-1, 10-2, 10-3, 10-4, etc.

Teachers are going to training called "Hone a Lesson" so they can teach to individual needs/aptitudes—teachers are already differentiating within the classrooms.

More Eureka Math materials will come to the school from the county in November.

To Create a login on the Greatminds.org site.

1. In the upper right hand corner, click Sign Up.
2. Fill in your information, create a pw
3. For "Subjects You're Interested In," select Math
4. For "Role", select Parent
5. Create Login
6. Scroll down and agree to terms

There are Parent Tip Sheets (per module per topic, not for every Homework) on the greatminds.org website in the Parent section. These tip sheets have been coming home as a paper copies about once a week with your child.

## **Further Resources for Eureka Math**

**Eureka Math-** Sign up for a free account at [greatminds.org/signup](https://greatminds.org/signup) to access:

- Homework Helpers (PK-12)
- Parent Tip Sheets (K-8)
- Grade Roadmaps (K-8)
- Sample problems
- Card Games
- Videos

Parent resources are available in English and Spanish.

## **DreamBox Math Resources**

DreamBox Learning is a K-8 digital math program that independent studies have found to raise student achievement and better prepare children for future success.

To Access DreamBox on a Browser

Your student can access DreamBox Learning from any computer, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. All you need is a high-speed Internet connection. If you're using a browser, use this link: <https://play.dreambox.com/login/fb94/e2u7>

If your student uses a picture password, you will also need to enter the Classroom Code.

To Access DreamBox on an iPad

To download the DreamBox Learning Math app, go to <https://www.dreambox.com/ipad>, or search for "DreamBox Learning Math" in the App Store. If you already have the app installed, you'll want to make sure the latest version of the app has been installed so your student receives the most current experience and lessons.

When prompted in the app, enter this school code: fb94/e2u7

If your student uses a picture password, you will also need to enter this Classroom Code.