

Dear Family,

The next unit in your child's mathematics class this year is ***Moving Straight Ahead: Linear Relationships***. In this unit, students are developing skills in areas that are traditionally known as algebra. This unit introduces them to situations that can be modeled with linear functions and graphed with straight lines.

UNIT GOALS

The primary goal of this unit is to develop understanding of linear relationships or linear functions. Students learn to recognize linear functions by the constant rate of change between two variables in a verbal context, table, graph, and equation.

Students identify, represent, and interpret linear relationships. They solve linear equations and write equations for lines. These last two ideas will be revisited with more complexities in later units—in particular, the *Thinking with Mathematical Models* and *Say It with Symbols* units.

HELPING WITH HOMEWORK

You can help with homework and encourage sound mathematical habits as your child studies this unit by asking questions such as:

- What are the variables in the problem?
- How are the variables related? Is the relationship linear?
- How can I recognize a linear relationship if it is represented in a problem, a table, a graph, or with an equation?
- How can tables, graphs, and equations of linear relationships be used to express and answer given questions?

In your child's notebook, you can find worked-out examples from problems done in class, notes on the mathematics of the unit, and descriptions of the vocabulary words.

HAVING CONVERSATIONS ABOUT THE MATHEMATICS IN MOVING STRAIGHT AHEAD

You can help your child with his or her work for this unit in several ways:

- Ask your child to describe some real-world situations in which linear functions are used to explain how the situations can be described using a table, a graph, and an equation. An example is phone charges that increase at a constant rate based on the length of the call.
- Look at your child's mathematics notebook. You may want to read some of the explanations that have been written and, if they are unclear, talk with your child about why you think they may need more explanations.
- Look over your child's homework and make sure all questions are answered and that explanations are clear.

A few important mathematical ideas that your child will learn in *Moving Straight Ahead* are given on the back. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about this unit or your child's progress in class, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,