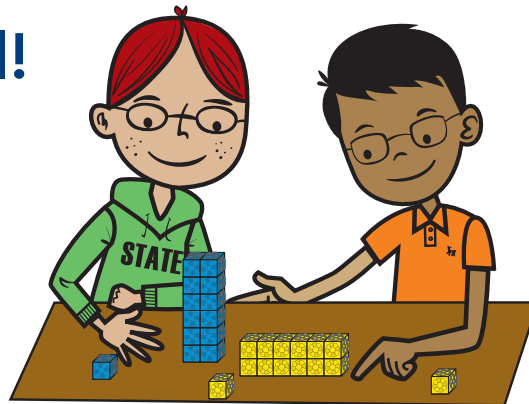# Dear Fifth Grade Families,

Welcome back to school!

This year we are using Bridges in Mathematics, a K–5 math program that will help us meet the new standards and make math meaningful and exciting. In fifth grade, students focus on computing with fractions, dividing with larger numbers, calculating with decimal numbers, and finding the volume of rectangular prisms. Throughout the year they:
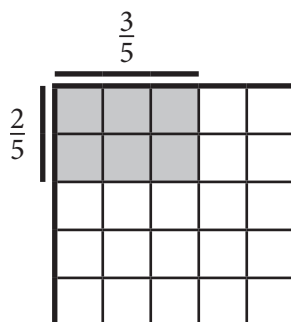
- Add, subtract, and multiply fractions
- Divide unit fractions by whole numbers ($\frac{1}{4} \div 3$)
- Divide whole numbers by unit fractions ($3 \div \frac{1}{4}$)
- Calculate with decimal numbers
- Find the volume of rectangular prisms (boxlike shapes)

The math might sometimes seem seem unfamiliar or different than you remember, but there are many ways you can help!

- Invite your child to talk about the math by asking questions like, "Did you do a problem like this at school? How did you think about it?"

- Focus on the pictures. Bridges uses visual models to make the mathematics accessible to all learners. Talking about the pictures is a great way to get started. Ask questions like, "What do you notice about this picture? Where do you see the numbers in this picture? Can we use the picture to help solve the problem?"

$$\frac{2}{5} \times \frac{3}{5} = \boxed{\frac{6}{25}}$$

- Get more information and ideas about how to help your child by visiting this website for families: www.mathlearningcenter.org/families

By being open to learning and talking with your child, you can help your child develop strong skills and a love of math.