

## **Plainville Citizen Op- Ed, November 2012**

This year, the Plainville Community Schools adopted Pearson's enVisionMath program in grades K-6. This program was carefully chosen by a committee of teachers and administrators and was piloted in several classrooms last year. The enVisionMath program is based on the Common Core State Standards that were recently adopted by Connecticut and 43 other states across the country. These standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to know, understand, and use at each grade level. The standards are designed to be rigorous and relevant to the real world. The goal is to provide students with the knowledge and skills they will need for success in post-secondary education and the workforce.

The enVisionMath program helps students develop a conceptual understanding of important math concepts through problem based interactive learning. Each lesson is highly focused and is connected to essential understandings. It also provides ongoing assessment, diagnosis, and intervention, as well as differentiated instruction to help meet the needs of all students. The focus for students in kindergarten through second grade is on place value, addition and subtraction with fluency. Students in grades three through five focus on multiplication and division with fractions and whole numbers, and sixth graders focus their learning on probability, statistics, and rational numbers.

Each lesson in the enVisionMath program begins with a visual learning animation that engages students in understanding the concepts and skills for the lesson. The program integrates with our interactive white boards and enables the students to demonstrate their understanding through electronic manipulatives and other tools that engage students. The program features online assessments that can be used for diagnosis, remediation, and enrichment. These assessments will help students become familiar with the process they will use for future state testing.

In addition to the resources offered in the classroom, all students have on-line access to the student edition of their textbook and lessons taught in class. This allows them to review concepts at home through additional activities and tutorials. Student login information can be obtained from their classroom teacher.

The current feedback from students and teachers has been very positive. Our teachers will continue to receive additional professional development and training on how to most effectively use the various components of the program. This is an exciting opportunity for Plainville to implement the enVisionMath program and provide focused math instruction that is based on the new Common Core State Standards.