Dear Parent or Guardian,

Recently, more than 40 states in the United States have developed and adopted a common set of academic standards in mathematics. These standards, called the **Common Core State Standards**, were developed in collaboration with teachers, school administrators, and mathematics and education experts under the auspices of the bipartisan National Governors' Association and the Council for Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).

What are the Common Core State Standards?

These standards will serve as important benchmarks to ensure that all students are receiving high quality education and are well prepared for success in post-secondary education and in the workforce. Students will be assessed on a regular basis throughout their school career to monitor their progress toward meeting these benchmarks.

As individual states have adopted these new standards, they have committed to a shared grade-by-grade sequence of topics to be taught. For many states, this requires a shift from the instructional materials they currently use to materials that match both the content skills and the mathematical understandings contained in the **Common Core State Standards**.

How will your student meet these standards?

Your child is using ***digits*** as his or her math program. This program was specially developed to provide comprehensive coverage of the **Common Core State Standards** for Mathematics. The ***digits*** program includes a Student Companion worktext. Take a look through it, and you'll notice that each lesson specifically targets one or more of the standards for mathematical content. (This is shown just below the lesson title.)

In addition to content standards, the **Common Core State Standards** include standards that describe the practices and abilities of very good math thinkers. Called *Standards for Mathematical Practice*, these standards develop particular mathematical skills and habits of mind. Because ***digits*** was developed specially for the **Common Core State Standards**, the program has the *Standards for Mathematical Practice* embedded in every lesson. You can help your child develop their mathematical practice by encouraging him or her to think about the questions found on the back of this letter.

Pearson is committed to providing quality instructional materials that can help all students achieve mastery of the **Common Core State Standards** and be well prepared for success after high school. We hope that your child has a successful and rewarding year in the study of mathematics!

A Parent's Guide to the Standards for Mathematical Practice

As your child works through homework exercises, you can help him or her develop skill with these standards by asking some of these questions:

1 Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.

- What is the problem that you are solving for?
- Can you think of a problem that you recently solved that might be similar to this one?
- How will you go about solving the problem? (i.e., What's your plan?)
- Are you progressing toward a solution? How do you know? Should you try a different solution plan?
- How can you check your solution using a different method?

2 Reason abstractly and quantitatively.

- Can you write or recall an expression or equation to match the problem situation?
- What do the numbers or variables in the equation refer to?
- What's the connection among the numbers and variables in the equation?

3 Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.

- Tell me what your answer means.
- How do you know that your answer is correct?
- If I told you I think the answer should be [a wrong answer], how would you explain to me why I'm wrong?

4 Model with mathematics.

- Do you know a formula or relationship that fits this problem situation?
- What's the connection among the numbers in the problem?
- Is your answer reasonable? How do you know?
- What does the number—or the numbers—in your solution refer to?

5 Use appropriate tools strategically.

- What tools could you use to solve this problem? How can each one help you?
- Which tool is more useful for this problem? Explain your choice.
- Why is this tool [the one selected] better to use than [another tool mentioned]?
- Before you solve the problem, can you estimate the solution?

6 Attend to precision.

- What do the symbols that you used mean?
- What units of measure are you using? (for measurement problems)
- Explain to me what [term from the lesson] is.

7 Look for and make use of structure.

- What do you notice about the answers to the exercises you've just completed?
- What do different parts of the expression or equation you are using tell you about possible correct answers?

8 Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

- What shortcut can you think of that will always work for these kinds of problems?