A typical Math In Focus unit will begin with a pre-assessment for prior knowledge and background. The teacher will then determine which students need additional background and how to “back fill” the information to the individual students or class as a whole when needed. The Math In Focus transitional guide will connect teachers to previous grade level lessons, tasks and activities.

Then, direct instruction begins for the whole class. Once the anchor task is complete students will begin guided practice. Students will be introduced to new concepts at the concrete level and then led to the pictorial and finally the abstract. This progression allows students to touch and move physical manipulatives as they develop number sense and mental math skills. This is not a solely linear process as students can move back and forth to the concrete and pictorial as needed. The goal is for students to be able to visualize the math during mental math activities. Students are then able to develop and explain their thought process versus just memorizing an answer.

Guided practice is a place where teachers can differentiate the learning and practice based on the individual student’s needs.

Students will then progress to independent practice and a teacher will determine who needs a reteach lesson (with an adult), extra practice, or enrichment (challenge) problems to work on. Students can be given independent practice through the workbook, journal writing, and technological applications.

At Tolland Intermediate School we have an academic intervention model for math support. The program provides targeted remedial math instruction. Students are served both in and out of the classroom setting. The math interventionist (s) collaborates with teachers to; develop math intervention plans for students, differentiate instruction to meet the needs of a wide-range of students and analyze and interpret student assessment data.

Any student scoring below specified percentile ranks is provided with supplemental small group instruction in their classroom. During the course of this small group targeted instruction, student progress is closely monitored. Any student not responding to supplemental instruction is referred to the math specialist for additional diagnostics. If a student qualifies they will be pulled out for intensive, specific instruction during our learning lab block.  Our learning lab block gives teachers the opportunity to work with students on areas of need.

Students may or may not have written homework each night. However, there is always something they could be working on at home. All students in grades 1-5 have been given a Digi Plus account to practice their math skills as well as access to Think Central which is the virtual version of all student textbooks, and virtual manipulatives.