

## **Information for Parents About.....**

# **SKYMATH: MAKING MATHEMATICAL CONNECTIONS THROUGH TEMPERATURE EXPLORATION**

### **What Is SkyMath?**

SkyMath is a mathematics teaching and learning unit for 5th through 8th grade students. Students learn mathematics through hands-on use of weather data. They use thermometers, computers, data loggers, the Internet, and other media sources, to collect and analyze data.

SkyMath was developed by a team of mathematicians, educators, curriculum specialists, and scientists, and was tested by teachers in classrooms for three years.

### **Why is SkyMath An Effective Way to Teach Math?**

- SkyMath supports and enhances the regular math curriculum.
- SkyMath connects math learning to real-life applications.
- Students enjoy using the SkyMath materials. They are motivated to learn math.
- Technology enhances student learning.
- SkyMath integrates math and science content.
- SkyMath is flexible. Teachers can use it with a wide range of student math abilities and experiences.
- SkyMath is based on National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) Standards. It aligns well with state and district mathematics standards.

### **What Do Students Learn Through SkyMath?**

SkyMath strengthens basic math skills, deepens student understanding of mathematical concepts, and improves communication about mathematics.

#### ***SkyMath students learn to:***

- Create and interpret different types of graphs
- Collect, sample, and analyze real-time data
- Use different measures of central tendency (mean, median, and mode)
- Work with the concepts of maximum, minimum, range, ratio, and rates of change
- Convert temperatures from one scale to another

In addition to SkyMath classroom activities, students use a thermometer to measure temperatures at home. Thermometers can usually be loaned by the school. No additional home resources are needed for SkyMath.

### **Where Can I Find Out More About SkyMath?**

Ask your child's teacher or go to the SkyMath homepage on the World Wide Web. Download materials cost-free from the Internet.

*<http://www.unidata.ucar.edu/staff/blynds/Skymath.html>*