

# Bridges in Mathematics Overview

At Chelsea Public Elementary School we use *Bridges in Mathematics*, a full elementary school curriculum that provides the tools, strategies, and materials teachers need to implement and meet the Vermont Grade Level Expectations.

Developed with initial support from the National Science Foundation, Bridges offers a unique blend of problem solving and skill building in a clearly articulated program that moves through each grade level with common models, teaching strategies, and objectives.

A Bridges classroom features a combination of whole-group, small-group, and independent activities. Lessons incorporate increasingly complex visual models - seeing, touching, working with manipulatives, and sketching ideas - to create pictures in the mind's eye that helps learners invent, understand, and remember mathematical ideas. By encouraging students to explore, test, and justify their reasoning, the curriculum facilitates the development of mathematical thinking.

Written and field-tested by teachers, Bridges reflects an intimate understanding of the classroom environment. Designed for use in diverse settings, the curriculum provides multiple access points allowing teachers to adapt to the needs, strengths, and interests of individual students.

To learn more about the Bridges Curriculum visit their website by clicking the link below:

<http://www.mathlearningcenter.org/curriculum/bridges/about>