



River Forest
Public Schools

Administration Building
7776 Lake Street
River Forest, IL 60305
708-771-8282

MEMO

Date: 6/17/2025
To: Dr. Ed Condon
From: Dr. Christine Trendel
RE: Recommendation for Adoption of Desmos Math in 5th Grade

Fifth Grade Math Current Status

Fifth grade math currently uses Savvas Investigations as the core resource for math instruction. This is the same core resource used in K-4 classrooms for math instruction.

Opportunity for Middle School Alignment

Implementing Desmos in 5th grade presents a valuable opportunity to strengthen the alignment of math teaching and learning from grades 5 through 8 at Roosevelt.

1. Use of a consistent resource across all math classes in grades 5–8 will enhance coherence within the math department, promote deeper teacher collaboration, and allow D90 to streamline professional learning.
2. 5th grade ATP classes (which follow 6th grade standards) can leverage Desmos to both reinforce 5th grade concepts and introduce 6th grade content—eliminating the need for multiple instructional resources.
3. This approach will allow teachers to deepen their expertise with a single platform, regardless of their teaching schedule and/or course assignments. Whether a teacher is instructing 5th grade math, 5th grade ATP, or any middle school math course, they will be using one high-quality resource from a single publisher.

5th Grade Desmos Overview

- The 5th grade Desmos curriculum is aligned with the Common Core State Standards for 5th grade math.

- Similar to the 6th–8th grade Desmos program, it follows a problem-based, structured approach designed to build deep, grade-level understanding.
- Lessons are engaging and interactive, fostering student collaboration and discussion.
- The platform provides opportunities for teachers to support individual learning needs and extend thinking for students ready for additional challenge.
- Each Desmos lesson and unit offers meaningful opportunities for assessment, allowing teachers to make data-driven decisions, and personalize instruction and feedback for students.
- Although Desmos provides a robust digital platform for student practice, we plan to purchase the paper-based student workbooks to accompany the digital resource. This will give 5th grade students ample opportunities for paper-and-pencil math work and reduce screen time—an approach that aligns with developmentally appropriate best practice for this age group.
- The 5th grade Desmos curriculum includes seven units of instruction:
 - Volume
 - Fractions as Quotients and Fraction Multiplication
 - Multiplying and Dividing Fractions
 - Multiplication and Division with Multi-Digit Whole Numbers
 - Place Value Patterns and Decimal Operations
 - More Decimal and Fraction Operations
 - Shapes on the Coordinate Plane

Projected Cost of 5th Grade Desmos Math Adoptions

2025-2026	\$13,575 Teacher Manual print set and 4 years of digital access for teachers and students
2026-2027	\$10,000 (\$23/student) Student consumable notebooks