

IMT1 Unit 1 Big Ideas

Engagement comments

There were more drill and practice problems rather than deep engaging questions.

The structure of the materials guided students too much without allowing for exploration. Some aspects of the exploration were too unguided and students were confused with directions.

Rigor/differentiation comments

Often times there was too much teacher material to go through and choose. Most were drill type problems

Again, some of the problems/examples were clear and helpful, others were not.

Resources comment

The assessments very seldom had room for the kids to show their work. It was helpful to have them in word documents so I could change them but it was annoying that I had to.

I did like how the assessments were editable and were similar in fashion, but using the online Dynamic classroom made it difficult to smoothly transition during a lesson. There were way too many clicks and the materials were not very user friendly with the Smartboard.

Readability comments

Kids only had some difficulty with question that were asked...not the lesson part. There were good examples for the text.

Overall comments

My feeling about this material is mixed. While I realize parents need examples of the concepts taught, I also realize that the math should come alive for the kids. This material did not do that for kids. As an educator, the math in this book was consistently drill after drill after drill. Very few problems were deep compared to how many were drill. I watch my kids "turn off" in math rather than stay connected like CMP built.

I am not too fond of the materials and do not recommend the materials for adoption. I'm very excited to pilot the Core Focus materials.

IMT1 Unit 1 Core Focus

Engagement comments

The Tic-Tac-Toe activities encourage collaboration and sharing thinking but the lessons are very much "stand and deliver" style.

The kids used their white boards to do warm up activities, did some partner problem-solving w/ power point activities and book/work activities. Materials were easy for kids to understand.

Opportunities for engagement (after attending SIOP training) are virtually nil - worse than Big Ideas

Students were excited about the tic tac toe. goals were clearly stated. Pages were not overwhelmed with text.

Rigor/differentiation comments

For the added challenge/rigor materials, many of the concepts were so far above the level of the initial 'at level' worksheet that it was hard for students to make that leap, even if they were very skilled in the original content.

There are a few Spanish materials, which is nice, but not enough. The practice problems had some good challenges and the Tic-Tac-Toe had plenty of rigor!

Most of the lessons taught were simply too easy for level 4 (standards based grading) problems - worse than big ideas.

I liked the leveled worksheets for each lesson and that they were word files so I can adapt as needed.

Resources comments

I like all the resources, but wish the answer keys were on a worksheet of the questions instead of being just a list of answers so they could be integrated easier into the lesson.

The resources are easy to use and there are enough. The problem is that they're not particularly interesting or creative. The program is really lacking in creativity and hands-on experiences for building understanding.

There were no Check Point Quizzes. I was able to create using the extra materials/ worksheets/ and Summative Assessment. It would have been nice to also have a larger bank of word and application problems that are more closely related to Smarter Balance Questions.

NEver used.

The summative test was extremely long.

Readability comments

The reading level is excellent.

Vocabulary was not necessarily "developed" but was integrated into lesson

Overall comments

Overall I really like the material, but the examples seemed overly simple and the challenge questions overly complex. I found myself wanting more 'in the middle' work.

Overall I was quite disappointed. The daily lesson presentations are boring and did not provide enough variety nor did they really provide much hands-on work, which is particularly important at Grade 6 for building understanding. Basically, by the end of the the 3 1/2 weeks I was bored and so were my kids AND I wasn't even teaching straight from the curriculum. I added in partner work opportunities and small group work opportunities and it was STILL boring. If we adopt this curriculum it will be little more than a framework. We will have to supplement alot and we will have to get really creative designing our own lessons. There are quite a few resources to use in designing those lessons but still... Final analysis, sadly, is "yawn".

This material seems thrown together in order to meet a quick deadline for \$\$\$

I really like this curriculum and feel it's the best fit for our students!

IMT1 Unit 2 Big Ideas

Engagement comments

Many of my students commented that this book was "fun". It definitely had more opportunities for engagement. We tried the games closet and had success with that. Big Ideas has more than Core Focus but so much less than CMP2 that it's hard to get super excited.

The activities seemed designed for student discussion and exploration of new ideas.

The materials certainly required a lot of thinking on the students parts, and relating to certain properties and reasons why the math is the way it is.

Rigor/differentiation comments

The practice problems do not appear to have the necessary rigor to prepare students for the Smarter Balanced assessments. There were not leveled practice materials like in Core Focus. In addition, it was hard for me to find materials. Perhaps once we have time to delve further into this program, if we adopt, then we would see more of what they have?

I was not able to locate materials at different levels for students. Simply choosing different homework problems is not my idea of differentiation.

Everything seemed at the same level. Visuals were helpful.

Resources comments

We struggled to find and use the assessments as well as to match the assessments to the lessons.

The Dynamic Classroom was not realistic. For reviews in the 'lesson plans' it had students make a graphic organizer. There were not additional practice resources for specific skills outside of the homework assignments.

The pages were incredibly busy, numbered in funky ways and hard to follow along or direct students. Some of the student examples were incorrect

Readability comments

The explanations of the properties were confusing to students.

Overall comments

Overall my kids had more fun with Big Ideas but I think it's mediocre, at best. It wasn't as boring as Core Focus but now that I've taken SIOP and "seen the light" I don't think it really matters which program we use. Both move too fast in concept development. Core Focus has richer practice problems and easier to use resources. Big Ideas is more kid friendly and probably more parent friendly, simply because it's more kid friendly. Both publishers were very responsive to suggestions and requests for additional materials. Truthfully, I think it's a toss up. And a tragedy that we don't have something richer and more meaningful to examine. Sigh.

I would not be satisfied if we adopted this curriculum.

I thought this curriculum was hard to follow for both teachers and students.

IMT1 Unit 2 Core Focus

Engagement comments

This pilot had more depth when it came to their problem solving questions.

Problems were real world. Students were not caught up in silly cartoons and extraneous materials.

Rigor/differentiation comments

Excellent!

Resources comments

I was impressed with the exit slips after lessons. Kids enjoyed assessing themselves when it came to quizzes and exams to see if they were ready!

Excellent resources for students, parents and teachers alike. Easily accessible. Easily modified. Did I mention I LOVE this curriculum?!

Readability comments

:)

Overall comments

This set of pilot materials from online to hard cover was very easy to read, understand, and modify. It is much closer to rich involved questions like the Smarter Balanced assessment than the other pilot. Kids had to "think" when given a rich problem rather than just reciting formulas. This material is also good for parents because the examples are clear within the student copy and if they don't understand the concept, the online videos are easy to get to and view.

This *should* be the new curriculum that Bellevue teachers adopt!! Incredibly user friendly for teachers and engaging for students without over kill or being too dry.

I like Core Focus better than Big Ideas. Very straightforward. The kids thought that the examples/lessons for each part of the unit for pre-algebra was easy to understand.

IMT2 Unit 1 Big Ideas

Engagement comments

Partner work was encouraged in the activities

In the activity section I would say it absolutely promotes engaging with other students in regards to their learning. The lesson examples don't necessarily promote it unless you directed students that way. The Exercise questions are similar to what I would call "drill and kill" options. The issue that arises with this format is there just simply isn't enough time. Each "chapter" needs two days to complete it. There just isn't enough realistic time to allow for the students to complete the "chapter" with validity as to how Big Ideas has laid it out.

I did not feel that the lessons as presented asked students to do any higher level thinking. In fact even my students commented that the material was not challenging, especially the homework problems. Most students were able to complete the assignments without needing to talk to other students about it.

Rigor/differentiation comments

The rigor was inconsistent- some of the early lessons were more difficult and required more thinking than lessons later in the unit. Some of the later lessons were far too simple. The Spanish worksheets did not line up directly with the lessons. It was difficult to determine what to assign on a specific day to align with the lesson in English.

I would say that the online website is a wonderful tool that allows students to be pushed or to catch up. The website is the best part of the curriculum. ELL materials are extensive for Spanish, but I didn't really notice it/use it for any other language.

Many of my more capable students were not challenged at all. I frequently heard comments like "we learned this last year", "this is too easy", "where are the challenge problems" and "I'm finished" after just a few minutes of work. The materials did provide suggestions for students at a higher level but I found it was often just doing MORE rather than doing DEEPER work. I did appreciate the resources for struggling students, but didn't find the materials terribly well suited for ELLs.

Resources comments

The resources excluding assessments are quite helpful in my opinion. I believe that most of the resources in the teacher's edition and in the online materials bank are quite extensive and allow a fair amount of teacher discretion in supplementing the work. I will say that I pretty much took everything and copied it onto smartboard files. I'd probably have to do that with any curriculum though. The Assessments are an entirely different story. I believe that the formatting of the assessments is poor at best. There was little to no space provided for students to show work or even give any explanation. All assessments would have to be completely redone and reformatted.

I appreciated that online resources were available for students and parents. I didn't find the online teacher resources very easy to locate what I was looking for and I also wished for an easy to use paper version of the materials. I did not like that I couldn't modify or adapt worksheets easily, I ended up printing and cutting and pasting to get what I wanted. There were a LOT of homework problems, but not GOOD ones. I would assign the key problems for homework and it took most students about 5 minutes, not very thought provoking. I liked the material in the teacher's textbook, the Laurie's Notes or

whatever they were called were quite helpful but I found the pacing guide way off - things it said were 2 day lessons took less than a day, things it said were 1 day lessons took more than a day, etc. I found the formative assessments existed but were not terribly informative, they were often way too easy (ie, students could answer them before the lesson, so it wasn't a useful post-lesson tool) and the quizzes and tests available were not really that great nor were they easy to modify or adapt.

Readability comments

No comment necessary.

Overall comments

At first, I thought Big Ideas was going to be great. After teaching from it, I didn't find it as great as anticipated. The lessons didn't flow as they should. As I mentioned in the rigor sections, the difficulty at the beginning of the unit was much greater and far too simple in later sections.

My main take away from this curriculum is that I would find it hard to follow the format each chapter. My understanding is that there is supposed to be two days for each chapter. An Activity day followed by an Exercise day. Since we are an accelerated district, we teachers were asked to teach both the activity and the exercise in one day. Because of this I found it really hard trying to fit everything each chapter wanted my students to learn into each day. My students felt overwhelmed. All that said, I would not feel comfortable recommending the adoption of a curriculum that we are not going to follow with efficacy and authenticity in regards to how the curriculum was set up by the creators of Big Ideas. Meaning, if we adopted Big Ideas, I believe we would take their format, and completely change it. We would do something totally different. Instead of using two days per chapter, we would do it in one. That does not make sense to me. I feel it would be a huge disservice to adopt something that we aren't even going to use in the way it is being recommended to use it.

I was very disappointed in this book. I had high hopes for it because I like the layout and the format of the book and felt that the online resources would be useful for my students as well as the step by step examples in the textbook. However in practice most students didn't need these resources because the material was so easy and not at all rigorous, and my struggling students didn't really access it either. The web based presentation tools did not work for me so I recreated smart notebooks daily.

IMT2 Unit 1 Core Focus

Engagement comments

The Explores were great - I liked when they were more toward the beginning of a lesson versus at the end. (I followed the formatting of the lesson PowerPoint when structuring my lessons.)

The Tic-Tac-Toe activities encouraged students to demonstrate their thinking, but much of the thinking was solo. The Purple colored Explore options were not very engaging / challenging and did little to further student understanding.

Rigor/differentiation comments

Worksheets supplied in Spanish. I have no need for these though so not an issue for me.

I appreciated and used the leveled worksheets for each standard.

For spanish ELL students, yes - but this is not the majority of ELL in my classes.

Resources comments

I really liked the different levels of assessment - the multiple choice, the fill in the blank, and the application. In a perfect world I'd love different levels and versions of these (there may be already but I haven't poked around enough to look at them!), but I think it's great.

The online teacher resources were easy to use and well organized. Students were able to access materials at home. However, the practice quiz was slow when many students were logged on.

Exit tickets as formative assessment were readily available but content lacked adequate challenge.

Readability comments

Seems very appropriate reading-wise. Lots of words on each page, but I don't think it's too much. Students need to read directions and sort through information in life, and the explanations with the examples are excellent.

The format of the examples made it easy for students and parents to find key information.

Overall comments

LOVE Core Focus. It teaches WHY things work, not just that they work. Can we adopt it now please??? :D

I felt this curriculum, although somewhat turn key, with all the "correct" pieces, lacks creativity, and true engagement of students. The purple explore activities that I tried did not produce the level of conversation, nor deep discovery of concepts that promote student learning. Best features: Exit Tickets and End Tasks, that I adapted for group use.

IMT2 Unit 2 Big Ideas

Engagement comments

Warm up prompts were well themed and provide a context for rich mathematical conversations among students.

I think that any type of math question encourages students to demonstrate their thinking and engage with one another.

Rigor/differentiation comments

again like core focus, ELL support was in spanish.

There were no additional worksheets or assistance for students who needed challenge work or more explanation that I could find.

Resources comments

I really liked the online version of this text. There were a wide assortment of extra practice, theory, games, support, enrichment.

It was really annoying and not realistic for the Dynamic Classroom windows to pop up. The idea that they could be used in a classroom setting was not realistic. They had examples for how to solve problems, but that was it in regards to how parents could help their students or how students could learn when they were absent.

Readability comments

Some of the questions I had trouble understanding what they were saying (there was an inequality example about cooling and super cooling, and it was really confusing).

Overall comments

I like this curriculum as a whole better than the core focus. I did notice however, the jump from basic problems to complex problems (involving rational numbers) happened much sooner, which I think is better for our students. Both curricula have benefits and strengths as well as areas that would need adapting. Both curricula provide improved differentiation and an increase in the number and type of practice problems as well as problem solving options over CMP.

Big Idea provides the set-up for concept building, pattern recognition, concept expansion that can be a spring board for providing students with multiple experiences in the Mathematical Practices. The resources provide opportunities to create rich, complex group tasks. I preferred teaching from Big Ideas. I know I could produce quality lessons from Core Focus as well.

On the outside it looked great, and on the inside, it fell flat. I would not be satisfied with this curriculum.

IMT2 Unit 2 Core Focus

Engagement comments

It provides many opportunities for student collaboration.

Rigor/differentiation comments

There were worksheets available at different levels for each lesson. The lesson out of the book seemed more geared at the middle level of students.

I found the supplementary materials very straight forward and easy to reference for students that were above or below grade level. There are ELL supplementary materials, but only for Spanish.

Resources comments

While there were worksheets in Spanish, the books are not in Spanish. The Glossary has words in Spanish, but since it has ALL the words for the curriculum, its too much for a beginning ELL student to access.

Fantastic resources for Review, Absent kids could access day's lesson from home too. Various worksheets provided variety in assessing the students' understanding.

The resources for this curriculum was very user friendly. I wouldn't say that it was extremely extensive, but I could find exactly what I wanted very easily. The organization of the extra resources were very wonderful the see and use. Formative assessments were perfect! Summative assessments gave quite a few options. Multiple choice, short answer, pre and post. Very nice!

Readability comments

Seems accessible by most students aside from beginning ELL.

Very Easy for All level Learners!

It highlighted main ideas and vocab words. It used age level appropriate materials.

Overall comments

Overall, I like this curriculum. It's teacher and student friendly. The pages are "clean" and not too "busy" which makes it easier to follow along with the lesson.

Fabulous book both for the Teachers and students! Keep the Book!

I believe this curriculum was by far the most affective I have seen in my 6 years of teaching. I've used Holt, Algebraic Thinking, Glencoe, Connected Mathematics, (piloted)Big Ideas, and Core Focus. Core Focus is by far the most teacher friendly and student friendly. The online resource are exceptional. The availability of extra materials is layed out for easiest use. The material is basic and advanced in each chapter. The formative and summative assessments are perfectly arranged for teachers to follow right along through each chapter.

I highly endorse Core Focus over Big Ideas. Core Focus can be used how the creator made it to be used. I believe Core Focus is the perfect fit for Bellevue's mathematical rigor, accelerated policy, and lining up with the Common Core/Smarter Balanced assessments moving forward.

GIMT1 Big Ideas

Engagement comments

The biggest "aha" I got was when the cylinder was on its side. When children blindly use the formula without thinking, this would mess them up. I thought was profoundly clever and wise!

Rigor/differentiation comments

Working with elementary gifted students, when most of my students got it, some of the students didn't, and some had it beyond expectation, I was EASILY able to make the three different differentiation groupings.

Resources comments

I was impressed with the materials.

Readability comments

I thought the materials were age and developmentally appropriate for 5th graders who are taking IMT1.

Overall comments

I would be happy if you selected this book (or the other book). The biggest complaint the children had was "the book is VERY heavy."

GIMT1 Core Focus

Engagement comments

The Tic-Tac-Toe pieces gave a natural way for the students to work together and express their thinking.

I thought the rigor of this material seemed a bit more challenging than my experience with BIM.

Rigor/differentiation comments

I can see that the Parent Letter would be very helpful since it is already translated, if it was the language your students needed. However, none of my students who are ELL come from Spanish speaking homes, so that was not helpful.

I was easily able to make the advanced, at-level, and remediation modifications with ease. Since this was a "pilot" rather than using the Tic, Tac, Toe in one of the standard lines, I offered the children an opportunity to write me a proposal (with rationale) and select three of the most challenging activities. I had nine of my 26 students take me up on the challenge. These students are ones who are on the advanced end of the class. Whether this is appropriate or not, it was a differentiation/rigor option I made up.

Resources comments

Having warm up problems suggested, as well as exit tickets premade was very helpful in quickly assessing where the students were in their understanding..

I especially found the prepared "exit slips" profoundly helpful - information wise and management wise.

Readability comments

Great material!

Overall comments

I found this material, like the BIM to be just as good. I would be happy if either series was purchased. Since we didn't have access to the other books, I will have to defer to my MS colleagues and Kerry to determine if all of the materials in the series will suffice in ensuring GIMT1 is adequately rigorous and appropriate for 5th graders (potentially 2nd - 4th graders, too).

GIMT2/GMSP Big Ideas

Engagement comments

The examples at the start of each lesson were good introductions, helpful in facilitating group discussions.

Rigor/differentiation comments

There were a lot of different level resources and activities for students to work on at school and at home.

Resources comments

There are not enough differentiated assessments.

Readability comments

Overall comments

I liked Big Ideas much more than Core Focus. The level of difficulty in the story problems and in the practice problems were much higher in the Big Ideas Pilot. I also liked how many different types of examples there were that gave real-world connections to the math concept. I liked that there were so many different types of resources I could use for extra practice, as well as, for sample problems for my standard quizzes. The Extension and Enrichment and Technology Connections were big hits with my students. They were quite challenging and interesting. The textbook was colorful, easier to follow and read. The comics were great! My students liked this textbook much more than Core Focus. My vote would be Big Ideas for next year, because the range of material for reteaching to challenge is a lot greater than in Core Focus.

The problems within a lesson go from easy to difficult/complex much too quickly. This is not a problem in a gifted classroom, but there is not sufficient scaffolding for many general education students. The resources for Big Ideas were not as good as Core Focus. The Core Focus materials were much more differentiated and easy to find and utilize.

GIMT2/GMSP Core Focus

Engagement comments

The slide shows and starting examples were too guided for my students.

Rigor/differentiation comments

The Tic Tac Toe questions provided rich, and challenging questions for my GMSP students.

I really liked the Tic Tac Toe assignments- students were able to see the real-life application of the content they were learning in the unit.

The organization, availability, and number of the Core Focus differentiated materials are far superior to Big Ideas. I really like the tic-tac-toe activities for each Core Focus unit.

Resources comments

Some of the online resources varied from the Teacher's Edition. Students commented that when they got a question wrong on the on-line quiz, the reteaching section did not always correspond to the question. I would like to see more difficult/extension questions for the gifted classes to use, both in the lesson as well as on the assessment. The exit slips were a quick way to assess student's learning/progress.

The Core Focus materials and resources were easy to find and use. If I needed to quickly change gears based on something being too easy, other materials & resources were easily findable

Readability comments

Overall comments

Overall, I felt the lessons were able to introduce new concepts clearly. They also provided a LOT more examples and practice problems. I liked the Tic Tac Toe problems though I will probably assign them in different formats next year, if we adopt this curriculum. I think I'll need to supplement more challenging/extension problems for my gifted class. I will definitely introduce the lessons or target questions in a different format, probably more in an inquiry-based model for my gifted class. I would not recommend the slide show for the lessons. If we adopt this curriculum, I will need to spend time on preparing lessons in a format that is more engaging and allows students to demonstrate their math thinking/reasoning.

Piloting Core Focus was an overall better experience. I was more comfortable using it, and I feel the students adapted to it better. Differentiated resources and tic-tac-toe activities were great!

I really like that there is online video and practice for every lesson. The tic tac toe problems were great, but still thinking about the best way to use them. I will still need to supplement for gifted, but there are good materials to start from.