

Madison Elementary School

319 West Nebraska Avenue
Spokane, WA 99205
Principal: Greg Baerlocher

Led by a former principal, Madison Elementary School staff deliberately reviewed all aspects of mathematics instruction, systematically honing their instructional and assessment approaches to make sure they were “leaving nothing to chance when it comes to mathematics.”

Teachers at Madison Elementary lead daily 90-minute blocks of math instruction, investigation, problem solving, and practice in the following strands: number sense, measurement, geometric sense, probability and statistics, and algebraic sense. Students participate in a daily skill review that includes real-world problem-solving scenarios from each strand, attention to visual representations, and encouragement in using multiple approaches. Students work in groups, sharing and comparing their work. Staff are committed to balanced teaching, ensuring there is always attention to developing both conceptual and procedural understanding.

Strong number sense and fluency with arithmetic facts are considered foundational. To support explicit instruction, teachers use a variety of models, manipulatives, and visual representations, including open number lines and double number lines to teach fractions. Madison staff frequently debrief student work, using a formal protocol to improve understanding the level of individual and group mastery of key topics and skills and identify next teaching steps. As part of the schoolwide commitment to strengthening mathematics proficiency, staff developed assessments for each unit of instruction and grade level. Teachers track student performance on these assessments through assessment grids, a display format that facilitates analysis by individual, group, and grade level for each benchmark.

The current principal and teachers are strong proponents of the importance of effort and persistence in learning mathematics. They meet directly with parents to counter any negative messages that parents may inadvertently provide to their children about mathematics.

- ◆ Elementary (K-6)
- ◆ 82% White
- ◆ 6% Hispanic
- ◆ 2% Native American
- ◆ 1% Asian
- ◆ 1% Black
- ◆ 66% Free or Reduced-Price Lunch
- ◆ 30% Special Education