

Dear Parents,

We are excited to announce that the school has purchased a subscription to Dreambox online math program for all lower school students, kindergarten through fourth grade, again this year. We were drawn to this math program because aligns with our philosophy about math teaching and learning, and we are confident that it is a strong complement to our mathematics curriculum. Dreambox allows children at all places on the continuum of math learning to work on building number sense, strengthening conceptual understanding, building problem-solving ability, and practicing other essential skills.

We encourage you to have your children spend 30-60 minutes a week using Dreambox at home. Of course, if you have a "no screens" rule in your house, you should not feel you need to change that. Otherwise, we feel that Dreambox can be a wonderful substitute for less productive screentime.

This kind of practice is very helpful way for children to solidify math skills at all levels. Children can not only gain fact fluency, they can also improve number sense, conceptual understanding, and problem solving skills.

There are a few important details to keep in mind:

- The program is pre-set to your child's current grade level. However, it is an adaptive program, so it adjusts continually to provide exactly what your child needs to work on. Therefore it is useful both as extra support as well as enrichment. If your child says it is too easy, explain to them that the program will adjust itself, but they need to complete each lesson they start. If your child used Dreambox last year, your progress should be saved.
- You'll need to resist the urge to help your child with answers or the program won't accurately adjust. There are two help buttons your child can utilize. The "?" button will give the instructions again, and the lightbulb button will offer a hint. It can be tricky to figure out what to do for some of the activities at first. Feel free to help your child figure out what the task is asking, but then they should complete the lesson independently.
- For the same reason, please don't allow anyone else to use your child's log in. The program will use the data from the other child which will make it less effective for your lower school child.

Please see [this link](#) for instructions about how to access your child's account. (If you used your account last year, you access it the same way, but choose their new teacher. Everyone who is logging in for the first time will need to pick a picture password. Make sure your child knows this picture.)

A few things to highlight to make it easier: You must set up your child's account on a non-mobile device using this [link](#) ( if you aren't seeing the links in the [instructions](#), you will need to view the document from a non-mobile device). The link for initial set up is at the top of the second page ("setting up your child's account"). After you have set up your child's account, you can access it from an iPad. The school code for the iPad is wps9/friendssss. They recommend downloading both green and blue apps (which get utilized seamlessly through the program). However, the green app has the K-5 content, so certainly you could start with just that one.

If you are having difficulties with log in, please contact Lindsay Hamilton at [lsoffice@friends-select.org](mailto:lsoffice@friends-select.org). If you have questions about the program, please contact Amy at [amys@friends-select.org](mailto:amys@friends-select.org).

We feel confident that your child will both enjoy and benefit from this program, and we look forward to hearing about your experience with Dreambox.

Sincerely,

Amy Segel  
Lower School Assistant Director  
Lower School Math Enrichment Specialist

Dave Younkin  
Lower School Director