

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **Harcourt Achieve Announces New Saxon Math Middle School Curricula**

*Saxon Math leverages its proven track record with new textbooks, teaching aids and online content to help all middle school students succeed*

**Austin, TX -- April 25, 2006--** Saxon, an imprint of Harcourt Achieve, is releasing *Saxon Math* Courses 1, 2 and 3 for use in grades 6, 7 and 8 respectively. Course 3 is the first Saxon curriculum published expressly for eighth graders.

The new, standards-based series of hardbound textbooks, CDs, and online content provide a complete curriculum that works for all middle school students. An e-gradebook, lesson planner CD, eStudent Text, and eTeacher Edition eliminate the necessity of carrying textbooks home. Graphing, calculator, real-world explorations, and other learning activities are also available online.

To align with rapidly improving state standards and help middle schoolers achieve readiness for high school and college math, the new *Saxon Math* series emphasizes integrated problem solving, distributed learning, in-depth mathematical investigations, real-world applications, and mathematical thinking.

A new Saxon feature, Math Conversations, helps students explain their reasoning. This focus on mathematical thinking provides a firm foundation for higher-level math and algebra.

#### **Measurable Results**

In a world of textbook sameness, the new *Saxon Math* has a distinctive look and learning approach. The table of contents contains no chapters. Instead of isolating fractions from decimals from geometry in a typical chapter format, Saxon weaves these curriculum strands together throughout the year to build the depth of understanding required by today's standards.

A user-friendly teacher's manual helps instructors see at a glance how the mathematical concepts work together. The redesigned manual also includes scripting and teaching support for problem solving work, and parallel teaching strategies for special-education classrooms.

English-language-learners benefit from instructions that appear in the student textbook—and not just in the margins of the teacher's manual. The conversational format develops mathematical language and provides opportunities for all students to engage in meaningful mathematical conversations.

The outcome is lessons that are more challenging and engaging, students who perform better in today's high-stakes testing environment, and sufficient time for all students to master the standards. Student achievement is measurable, immediate, and long lasting.

The new *Saxon Math* program, with its integrated and distributed units of instruction, is based on two decades of foundational research, effectiveness case studies, and documented improvements in student test scores. Specific research programs, test results, and state correlation standards are available at [www.saxonmath.com](http://www.saxonmath.com).

### **Asian Problem-Solving Model**

For nearly two decades, research-based *Saxon Math* has helped K-12 students gain the confidence and competence they need to learn and retain mathematical skills and concepts. Within the Saxon curriculum, skills and concepts are never dropped, but are developed, reviewed and assessed throughout the school year. The result is that all students have time to master the standards.

The continual practice design works particularly well with disadvantaged minorities and special education students. Every day, students review and build on math foundational skills and concepts, mental math, and problem solving skills. Ever so gradually, problems grow in complexity. It is this solid foundation of skills and concepts that helps Saxon students do exceedingly well in problem-solving and algebra.

The Saxon approach to problem-solving parallels those used in Asia, where students consistently outperform their American counterparts on standardized tests. Using the Saxon methodology, students read the problem and translate it to a word equation prior to plugging in the numbers. Students use verbal reasoning to set up the numbers problem. This focus on understanding the relationship of numbers lays the groundwork for proportional and algebraic thinking.

The updated *Saxon Math* program incorporates frequent, timely, and strategically placed assessments. Power up assessments of basic facts, skills, and problem-solving occur after every five lessons. Cumulative assessments occur after every 10 lessons and focus on concepts. In addition, there are quarterly benchmark tests.

Ancillary materials for a set of classroom books include a teacher's edition, teaching masters, posters, transparencies, and an answer key CD. A new, CD-based test and practice generator has multiple-choice, open-ended problem solving formats in English and Spanish.

For purchasing information visit [www.saxonmath.com](http://www.saxonmath.com) or call 1-800-284-7019.

### **About Harcourt Achieve**

Harcourt Achieve produces learning solutions and content that fundamentally and positively change the lives of young and adult learners. Published under the Rigby, Saxon and Steck-Vaughn imprints, its products are based on a developmental philosophy that assesses learners' skills, matches them to appropriate content and accelerates them to meet and exceed expectations. The Rigby imprint offers progressive learning solutions for core reading and

English language learner instruction that provide differentiated instruction to match each student's instructional level. The Saxon imprint offers the nation's most successful and thoroughly researched foundational mathematics program for grades K-12, as well as popular phonics, K-3 spelling, and early learning programs. The Steck-Vaughn imprint offers easy-to-use, innovative learning solutions that accelerate content-area knowledge, reading skills, and preparation for standards-based tests, allowing learners to meet and exceed expectations. For more information, please visit [www.HarcourtAchieve.com](http://www.HarcourtAchieve.com).

Harcourt Achieve is part of Harcourt Education, a global education provider serving students and teachers in Pre-K through grade 12, adult learners and readers of all ages. The Harcourt Education companies are Harcourt School Publishers; Holt, Rinehart and Winston; Harcourt Achieve; Harcourt Assessment; Classroom Connect; Harcourt Religion Publishers; Harcourt Trade Publishers; Greenwood/Heinemann and Heinemann Global Library. For more information, please visit [www.harcourt.com](http://www.harcourt.com).

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### **Media Contact Information**

Harcourt Achieve  
Catherine Wambach  
cwambach@aol.com  
505-281-5324