**Statement of Purpose**

*The Problem*

This year is the first year students are taking the PARCC test. This test has students learning things much earlier than in previous years in order to prepare them for the future. As stated by Pearson, the creators of PARCC: “The **Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)** is a group of states working together to develop a set of assessments that measure whether students are on track to be successful in college and their careers” (2015). While we were provided with an outline of what to expect on these tests, it wasn’t until close to the start of the school year when we received this. Therefore, the curriculum used in this course this year is what was laid out before knowing about these new tests. It is necessary to reorder this material to help students understand it to the best of their ability. It is also important that they know the material in time to take their tests. The curriculum lays out the order one should approach the fifth grade math standards and has them build upon one another in the necessary time frame of gaining and understanding prior to the two tests.

*Needs of the Learner*

Young adolescents today are expected to succeed in school and do their best on everything. With the expectations set forth by PARCC it is a struggle for the students to feel confident and comfortable taking these tests. The job of this curriculum is to help the students be successful and understand the material presented on the test. It is important that they are exposed to the necessary things to help them be successful when they finally take the PARCC tests.

*Needs of the Society*

It is important that students develop math skills that help them live in our society today. We live in an ever changing world where so much is expected of us. These new PARCC tests challenge students. Society expects a lot of our young people. In order for them to be successful they have to have the right curriculum to help them better understand the material needed to pass this test. This curriculum addresses things that will help them live in society including things such as understanding of measurement, volume, fractions, and decimals. All of these things are used on a daily basis in a variety of jobs that take place in our society.

*Value of the Subject Matter*

Understanding math at all levels is imperative to a student’s future. Math is found in almost every job that one can think of, and it is important that students learn these basic skills to build upon as they go on in math. It is important to make learning math fun for the students; because they are more likely to understand the material if they are having fun with it.

Math is also used in everyday life, and four of the major units involved in this fifth grade math curriculum include decimals, fractions, measurement, and volume. These are two things that will majorly affect the students’ lives as they grow. Understanding of fractions is used in a variety of everyday things but specifically in cooking and measuring. Understanding of decimals is used every day when using money. Every day, people have to measure things whether it be capacity, weight, or length of something. People are always moving places and having to store things in places where they have to determine if there is enough space, and that is where volume comes into play. By grasping these topics the students will be more successful in their future lives.

*The Educational Goal*

According to Chiarleott (2006), “Statewide proficiency tests and other state and national high-stakes, normative assessments are forcing local school districts, and consequently classroom teachers, to incorporate national and state standards into their courses of study” (p. 32). This purpose of this course is to teach students the fifth grade math Common Core standards while preparing them to take both the Performance Based Assessment and End of the Year exam for PARCC. The course will provide students with the knowledge of the necessary standards to complete both tests at their specified times. By having the students learn the material in this order they should be well prepared for the PARCC exam and become more successful when taking it.

References

Chiarelott, L. (2006). Curriculum in Context. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth.

Home. (2015). Retrieved February 28, 2015, from http://parcc.pearson.com/