HOW TO USE

Welcome to *Algebra 1*. I believe you will have a positive experience with the unique Math·U·See approach to teaching math. These first few pages explain the essence of this methodology which has worked for thousands of students and teachers. I hope you will take five minutes and read through these steps carefully.

Since math builds upon previously studied concepts, the first step is to have your student take the readiness test found in the beginning of the student text. (The solutions to this test are at with the other solutions at the back of this book.) If the test reveals gaps in the student's understanding, please contact your trained Math·U·See representative and find out how to rebuild your student's math foundation. I am assuming a thorough grasp of the four basic operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division), along with a mastery of fractions, decimals, percents, and pre-algebra skills.

If you are using the program properly and still need additional help, you may contact your authorized representative or visit Math·U·See online at MathUSee.com/support. —**Steve Demme**

The Goal of Math-U-See

The underlying assumption or premise of Math·U·See is that the reason we study math is to apply math in everyday situations. Our goal is to help produce confident problem solvers who enjoy the study of math. These are students who learn their math facts, rules, and formulas *and* are able to use this knowledge in solving word problems and real-life applications. Therefore, the study of math is much more than simply committing to memory a list of facts. It includes memorization, but it also encompasses learning underlying concepts that are critical to problem solving.

More than Memorization

Many people confuse memorization with understanding. Once while I was teaching seven junior high students, I asked how many pieces they would each receive if there were fourteen pieces. The students' response was, "What do we do: add, subtract, multiply, or divide?" Knowing *how* to divide is important; understanding *when* to divide is equally important.