

Dear Parents,

Happy November! Ms. Salome and I thought we'd give you quick math update. All fifth graders took the graphing functions and order of operations test earlier this week, and will be reviewing it in class tomorrow. Be on the lookout for corrections!

We have started what will be quite a long unit, covering **all things fractions** up until the Winter Break. We just barely scratched the surface this week, mostly reviewing fourth grade concepts (think basic comparing of fractions, identifying parts of a whole, finding a common denominator, etc.). Please see your child's homework packet for a better idea of what we're working on.

Next week, we'll dive into adding and subtracting fractions with like and unlike denominators, including regrouping. We'll have a short quiz at the end of next week as well.

After the Thanksgiving break, we'll continue our fractions unit with a test at the end of the first week back. We'll then continue to dive deeper into fractions until the Winter Break.

Currently, we are a little bit ahead in our overall curriculum (fingers crossed it stays that way!), so we'll have plenty of time to spiral concepts and review before STAAR testing in April.

Things you can do to support your child at home:

- HOMEWORK, HOMEWORK, HOMEWORK!!! Make sure your child completes their weekly homework packet (due each Friday), with quality work shown and attention to detail. We don't expect to see every step of work shown, but we should have a general idea of your child's thought processes (i.e. a homework packet with just answers doesn't allow us to troubleshoot mistakes, and is good practice for teaching kids to be sequential in their thinking.... extra important for middle school math!).
- Continue to quiz your child on their fast facts (multiplication and division, 0-12).
- Help your child complete corrections in a timely manner; your child knows what to do!

We are walking the tightrope of keeping you in the loop, while also putting more responsibility on your child to keep the ball rolling. We have LOTS of conversations about our expectations and opportunities for support. While grades matter, ultimately we are most concerned with helping your child develop grit, strong problem solving strategies, and a growth mindset!

If the math homework takes your child more than 90 minutes or so to complete each week, please contact us and we can discuss various options. On the flip-side, if you feel your child is capable of completing the challenge option (last two \*starred\* pages of the homework packet), we highly encourage them to give it a go! As a reminder, they get to skip all the even problems in exchange for devoting time to more challenging problem solving. They do not have to get the challenge problems correct, just show overall effort and an obvious problem solving strategy.

Thanks for reading!

~Ms. Wirht & Ms. Salome

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