Math Matters

Created by:
Mrs. Dalka
Ms. Heiland
Mrs. Nolte

What's That Word?

A closed, plane figure with at least 3 straight sides and at least 3 angles is called a **POLYGON.**

The amount left over that will not divide equally into groups is called the **REMAINDER.**

Two lines that are side by side and have the same distance continually between them are called **PARALLEL.**

Two or more fractions that name the same amount are called **EQUIVALENT.**

Click It!
Check out these websites:

♦ Mathplayground.com "Play with Numbers and Give Your Brain a Workout" is the motto of Math Playground.

♦ Gregtangmath.com Explore grade level math topics with a variety of fun and challenging activities

Dealing With Math Anxiety

Are your words helping or hurting?

Math anxiety is a real thing. Many adults have it, probably even more so now as math education is changing and less understood than ever. Children feel it too. It is often socially acceptable to criticize one's own ability to do math, but what happens when our children hear this? Or consider the message sent when a parent empathizes with a struggling student, saying things like "I never got math either", rather than encouraging perseverance and belief in the child's ability. These are both common situations with the same outcome: students that are more afraid of math and much less likely to succeed in math class.

How do we prevent this? We change our words. We tell students that they are capable of learning math and we don't share our thoughts of our own inadequacies with math. Would you be proud to say "I can't read"?! Would you want your child to think that's ok? Then, we start enjoying math with our children. Just as we encourage parents to enjoy reading with their children, they should also enjoy talking about math with their children. Not just school math, but the intriguing and relevant math of the world.

Resources for Enjoying Math as a Family:

Bedtime Math   Math Before Bed   Table Talk Math

Click Here to read the article that inspired this!

Happy 100th Day of School!

The 100th day of school is quickly approaching! On February 7th (assuming there are no snow days), we will celebrate being 100 days smarter!

We are having our Annual 100th Day Contest at Black Rock School and Thomaston Center School!

100th Day Contest Details:
Your child will bring home a contest page of activities involving 100. Complete the activities and return the completed contest page to school by the 100th Day of School (Feb. 7th if there are no snow days). You can even work together and take on the challenge as a family.

Prizes will be awarded on the 100th Day of School!

Recommended Reading

Measurement (grades 2-5):
Perimeter, Area, and Volume A Monster Book of Dimensions
by David A. Adler

Geometry (grades 1– 4):
If You Were a Quadrilateral
by Molly Blaisdell

Fractions (grades 3-5):
The Lion's Share
by Matthew McElligott

Divisom (grades 3-6):
Cheetah Math
by Ann Whitehead Nagda

Figure It Out Together!

Play It:

(K-3) Make Ten Go Fish
Materials: Deck of cards with only Ace-9

Directions: This game is played just like Go Fish but instead of matching cards, you want to make pairs that add up to ten. Deal 5 cards to each player. On each player's turn, they can lay down any "Ten Pairs" they have in their hand. Then they ask any player for a number they need (example: I have an Ace so I ask another player if they have a nine). If that player has the nine they give it to the player who asked and the play continues to the next player. If not, the other player says "Go Fish" and the player draws one from the leftover deck of cards. Play ends when one player has gotten rid of all the cards in their hand.

(3-6) Multiplication War
Materials: Standard deck of playing cards with kings removed. Paper and pencil as needed to use strategies for solving

Directions: Deal out the cards. Jacks have a value of 11 and queens are worth 12. Each player flips the top 2 cards in his/her pile and multiplies the numbers on the cards together. They then state the multiplication sentence. (For example 8 X12 equals 96 or the product of 8 and 12 is 96). The player with the higher product collects all 4 cards. In the event of a tie, flip over 2 more cards to determine the winner of the "war". When no more cards remain, each player counts the cards they've won to determine the winner.

To modify this game for practice with different ranges of facts change the range of the cards you include in the deck. Consider using Kings as zeros too!.

Math Jokes, Riddles and Facts!

What did the geometry teacher say when her parrot went missing?

Answer: Polygon!

Math Tip:

When multiplying large numbers, if one of the numbers is even, divide the even number in half, and then double the second number.
For instance, to solve 20 x 120:

We can think of 20 as 10 x 2 and look at the expression 10 x 2 x 120 instead.

Then we can use the factor of 2 to double the 120 giving us 10 x 240.

Since we know 10 x 240 = 2400

The answer to 20 x 120 is 2,400.

Try These Apps for Math on the Go!

Prodigy Math Game (free)
Montessori Math Games ($2.99-$3.99)
Geoboard, by Math Learning Center (free)
Number Rack, by Math Learning Center (free)
Number Line, by Math Learning Center (free)

Mrs. Dalka is the K-6 Math Coach, Ms. Heiland is the Math Intervention teacher at Black Rock School, and Mrs. Nolte is the Math Intervention teacher at Thomaston Center School.

Have a great math riddle, tip, trick, website or book to share? Have questions, comments, or concerns? Contact us by email at:

sdalka@thomastonschools.org
sheiland@thomastonschools.org
jnolte@thomastonschools.org