

The Importance of Multiplication



Dear Parents,

Many parents have been wondering what they can do to make sure their children are prepared for math.

The biggest stumbling block that our students face is not having their multiplication tables memorized. It is crucial for our your child to be fluent in multiplication facts. The middle school math curriculum is filled with skills and concepts that require the use of multiplication.

For example,

- multi-digit multiplication
- solving word problems
- fraction operations
- finding the area and volume of a figure
- and much more.

Having the basic facts memorized will make it possible for students to be successful with these more advanced processes. Not having the basic facts memorized will make learning these concepts very difficult.

How can you help your child memorize their multiplication facts?

- Make sure that your child is completing their required online practice of 30 minutes each week. (See syllabus for details)
- Spend just a few minutes each day or a few days a week practicing, rather than long practice sessions.
- Play games with the facts. Try to find ways to make practice fun, including silly rhymes, songs, or memory tricks.
- Use time that is usually “wasted” (waiting in line, sitting in traffic) to drill facts.
- Identify the most challenging facts for your child, and spend the most time on those.** These usually include the 6’s, 7’s, 8’s, and 9’s.

On my class website, I’ve provided links to lots of sites for math practice and links for math fact drills to print out. Please feel free to use them as needed.

Just go to: www.stpatrickwest.weebly.com

In addition, children learn a lot from experiencing math in real life situations. Please involve your children as much as possible when you are using math to cook, build, shop, plan, tell time, etc. These experiences help students to develop a real understanding of math beyond numbers and computation.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Mrs. West