

Dear Parents,

This year our class is going to be spending time daily practicing and learning the math facts, beginning in the operation of addition. We will be using a program called **Mastering Math Facts (a.k.a. MMF and Rocket Math)**. It will take only a few minutes each day of class time, but students will quickly master all the facts. A fact is mastered when it can be answered instantly, without any pause. **Mastering Math Facts** is unique because it teaches only 2 facts and their inverses on each page. The program allows each child to go at his or her own pace, taking as many days to master those two facts as needed. Students are given an opportunity daily to show they have learned a set of facts by passing its test.

You can help your child progress and learn faster by practicing at home **the same set of facts** your child is learning at school. Every day that we practice in class, your child will have a new sheet to practice as homework. If a new sheet did not come home, please continue to practice any previously assigned facts. It will help a great deal if you will practice with your child for five minutes with that sheet.

Here's how I recommend you practice. Your child should have the top half of the day's practice sheet in front of him/herself. If the answers have been written in, then your child will need to write out the facts without answers on another sheet of paper, but copying the first row will be enough for practice purposes. **Please do not practice any facts your child is not doing in class, including any subtraction, multiplication, or division facts.** These are part of the progression of facts learned in class.

Have your child read each fact aloud and then say the answer to you. If you hear either the slightest hesitation or an error on one of those facts, give your child some extra practice on that fact. The best way to give extra practice is to begin by immediately giving your child the correct answer, and then ask him/her to repeat the problem and the answer once more. Next, back up three problems and have your child begin again. If there is no hesitation or mistake when the problem is reached this time, be sure to praise your child and let him/her continue.

Work until finishing the page. Your child can begin from the top again, but work no more than five minutes. If you wish to do a second session, wait at least an hour, or try it again in the morning. When memorizing facts, two short sessions a few hours apart are far more helpful than one long session. Your child's hard work should pay off in "passing" within a few days. Then the next set will be assigned and practice can begin again. Each practice and test sheet is cumulative, including all the facts learned so far.

Learning all the facts in a given operation is a lot of work, but future success in math is dependent upon knowing facts so well that the answers come automatically without much thinking. Especially in a world of calculators, being able to compute math facts mentally is needed just to know if the calculator answer is correct. You can also help by sharing with your child the importance of learning math facts.

If you visit my classroom web page at teachtobehappy.weebly.com, you will see websites and file attachments. These include explanations and help with the program. Feel free to browse around to become familiar with the program. Thank you for your help with this critical math goal.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Marianne Patterson

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