

Beginning of the Year Math Communication

Dear Families,

[Tell parents your goals.]

Welcome to Grade K math! We are excited to work with you and your child to build your child's love of math learning. Our number one goal is to help your child see themselves as a mathematical thinker who sees value in learning math. We also want to help your child see that math is everywhere! To do this, our year-long topics will be taught so that they build on previous understanding and prepare students for future math learning. We will also show students how math is used in the real world.



[Explain what they can expect their child to learn; keep the educational jargon as simple as possible. Including visuals that match is helpful.]

In Grade K, we will learn lots of math! With your support, your child will learn the following by the end of the school year:

- Count to 100
- Count groups of objects
- Write numbers 0 to 20
- Add and subtract with 5 fluently
- Add and subtract within 10 using objects or drawings
- Use comparison words (e.g., longer, shorter, heavier, lighter)
- Identify and describe two- and three-dimensional shapes
- Solve word problems
- And much, much more!



[Explain how they can help their child and feel confident they are doing the right thing.]

Lots of parents ask how they can help their child with math at home. While we take care of teaching the content, there are many ways you can support your child's learning at home.

1. Ask your child questions! Having them explain will often help both them and you understand the math concept being taught.
2. Be curious about the methods, strategies, and approaches we are using. Resist the temptation to show your children the way you learned it. It can create confusion!
3. Talk positively about math and your experiences with math at home. Also, find math in everyday situations (e.g., patterns in floor tiles) and talk about it!

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4. Play games! Math is all about problem-solving and games allow children experiences making decisions and choices that often have to do with math.
5. When in doubt, ask us if what you are doing is supporting your child's learning or interfering with it. We are happy to work one-on-one to provide specific guidance!



[List resources for parents to check out. Keep the list between three and five items to prevent resource abundance!]

RECOMMENDED MATH RESOURCES FOR YOUR HOME

Apps

- Bedtime Math, <http://bedtimemath.org> (available for iPhones, Androids, and computers)

Bedtime Math is striving to help families introduce math as a fun part of their daily routine, as common and beloved as the bedtime story. Within just one school year, kids who did Bedtime Math improved their math achievement on average by 3 months more than children who didn't. Better yet, kids of the most math-anxious parents who chose to do Bedtime Math had gains of half a school year.

Books

- *Adding Parents to the Equation: Understanding Your Child's Elementary School Math* by Dr. Hilary Kreisberg and Dr. Matthew Beyranevand (2019)

This book explains to parents why math instruction is different than in the past, how it's better for our kids, and what you can do at home to support your child's math learning.

- *Everyone Can Learn Math* by Alice Aspinall (2018)

This book is perfect for children to help them build confidence in math. In the book, the main character comes to understand that learning math is no different than learning any other skill in life.



[List recommended math tools for the home. Keep them grade-level specific and stick to the tools used in your classroom. Name the tool, include a visual, list some areas where the tool is helpful, and list where parents can get the tools if you aren't providing them.]

RECOMMENDED MATH TOOLS FOR YOUR HOME



- **Unifix cubes**—useful for counting, addition, subtraction, and measurement



- **Two-colored counters**—useful for counting, addition, and subtraction



- **Pattern blocks**—useful for identifying and building shapes



- **Rekenreks**—useful for counting, addition, and subtraction



- **Geometric solids**—useful for geometry and identifying three-dimensional shapes

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[Explain how parents can keep up with the math vocabulary.]

Sometimes you may hear your child use a math vocabulary word that is unfamiliar. We will be sending home a Unit Preview Letter before every new unit, where we will list the most important math terms and their definitions. Please use these letters as references throughout the units.

If you have any questions, please reach out!

Warmly,

[Signed Grade K Teachers]

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