Dear 5th Grade Math Families,

Many parents have been asking about what they can do to make sure their children are mastering 5th grade math skills, and are prepared to move on to 6th grade. The best pieces of advice we tell students and parents is to “practice, practice, practice.”

First and foremost, help your child practice their math fluency, or math facts. 5th grade students must be able to quickly add, subtract, multiply, and divide in order to move on to the higher-level math that they will be introduced to this year. In 5th grade, we need to move quickly into multi-digit multiplication and division. Then spend a large chunk of the time on fractions. Having the basic facts memorized will make it possible for students to be successful with these more advance math processes. Not having the basic facts memorized will make learning these concepts very difficult.

Do not be afraid of your child’s 5th grade math homework. You can help! Here are a few small tips on how you can help:

1. Spend just a few minutes each day or a few days a week practicing, rather than long practice sessions. Once the math becomes frustrating for your child, they will quickly lose motivation and associate homework time as something they do not want to do.
2. Have fun with math! Play games with the facts. Try to find ways to make practice fun, like silly songs, rhymes, or memory tricks.
3. Khan Academy is an excellent source of instructional videos and lessons that will reinforce the topics that are being taught in class. Please explore these options.

As with any new curriculum, this is a learning year for all of us and we continue to have the same commitment in preparing each student to move forward in mathematics. 5th grade utilizes ability grouping to ensure each child is met at their stage of learning. We find ability grouping to be beneficial and appropriate at this level. Students have such varied skills in this content area. Both groups will work through the first book of Math in Focus.

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| Topics we will cover in Book A: |
| Whole Numbers and the Four Operations |
| Fractions and Mixed Numbers |
| Multiplying and Dividing Fractions and Mixed Numbers |
| Decimals |
| Four Operations of Decimals |
| Volume |

Thank you for your continued support and please do not hesitate to contact us with any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sargent and Mrs. Segrest

CC: Jake Aubert