

On Jan 4, 2018, at 7:46 AM, Maureen Devlin <[maureen\\_devlin@wayland.k12.ma.us](mailto:maureen_devlin@wayland.k12.ma.us)> wrote:

Hi Family Members,

We're off to a good start in 2018, and as I think about the math program. I have the following thoughts.

1. The illness in December and now the snow day is interrupting our math flow, and in light of this, it would be great if you could encourage your child to complete this [week's homework](#) which is mostly review. The one part of homework which some students had trouble with were the more complicated equations, and the key here is to do what's in the parenthesis first.
2. As you know students will take the MCAS test in the spring. We like to see every child do as well as they can and this depends on mastering the standards. This mastery requires that every child give the study their best attention and effort. Please encourage your child to take the math study seriously and always do their best. I will be talking about that during the next math classes.
3. A positive study routine. I'll work more on establishing a similar, positive study routine during math class. In general, we're finding that this group of energetic fifth graders profit from a similar, steady, and positive routine. For math that means getting your supplies, attending to the introduction, practice/problem solving, discussion, clean-up, and conclusion. For home that means completing your weekly practice on That Quiz.
4. I will continue to provide extra help sessions most mornings from 8-8:30. I've been able to help a lot of students during that time with some good one-to-one and small group help. I'm hoping to add some afternoons when I can. This will likely occur after my high school son's swim season is over in late February since I like to help out and attend those events.
5. If your child is in the enrichment/advanced range in math, I recommend daily practice with Khan Academy at home. It takes a bit of practice and help to learn how to use Khan Academy, but when children do learn that and give it about 15 minutes a day to complete the fifth grade program, they build a very strong foundation for the upcoming math tests. Khan is not allowed at school, but I still continue to find it a good resource particularly for students who fall into the advanced category. Code Academy is a good enrichment choice, and 3D platforms like Minecraft also serve to develop a strong math foundation as well.
6. The time we devote to daily study in any area truly results in good learning. I have noticed that children whose parents are cheering them on and making sure they get their home study done, are making significant progress in class. I am also happy to consult with any parents who have questions about supporting their children with math success.

Math success matters a lot in today's world--to be math smart means that you are a better problem solver and better able to navigate our sophisticated high-tech world. Science shows us that every child is capable of learning math, and that learning takes consistent, steady, and positive study. I'll do what I can to help. Please let me know if you have any questions. **Thank you so much for all of your support. We could not do it without you!!!!!!** Have a happy snow day. - Ms. Maureen Devlin

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*"Communication leads to community, that is, to understanding, intimacy and mutual valuing."* - Rollo May