

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Many parents wonder what they can do to make sure their children are prepared for fourth grade math. The biggest factor for success is the memorization of multiplication and division facts. Students need to be fluent with multiplication facts (0-12) and corresponding division facts. In fourth grade, we need to move quickly into 2 digit multiplication and long division. Having the basic facts memorized will make it possible for students to be successful with these and other more advanced processes. Not having the basic facts memorized will make learning these concepts very difficult.

How can you help your child with math facts?

- ❖ 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. Card games, such as multiplication war, are also effective.
- ❖ Use time that is usually “wasted” (waiting in line, sitting in traffic, etc.) to drill facts.
- ❖ Identify the most challenging facts for your child, and spend the most time on those.

All students will also receive a multiplication chart for practice at home. All students will take a multiplication fluency assessment weekly.

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 any questions, please feel free to contact me at [amcalarnen@hancockschools.net](mailto:amcalarnen@hancockschools.net) or through our Remind Communication App. I am looking forward to a great year and seeing the growth your child makes into a mathematically savvy student.

Regards,

Mr. McAlarnen